#d." said

WASHINGTON (AP) — Strengthening a summit agreement, the Clinton administration has persuaded Russia to halt its delivery of Clinton administration has persuaded Russia to hast its delivery or air-to-ground missiles to Iran and to wind up ongoing weapons contracts quickly. The assurances were given last month in Moscow at a meeting of delegations headed by Vice President Al Gore and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin but only now disclosed by U.S. officials, Russia's decision to stop providing missiles to Iran was a pleasant surprise for the U.S. side, a senior official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. It complies with Secretary of State Warren Christopher's "dual containment" policy — to try to block weapons sales to Iran and Iran. Russia was engaged in a lucrative weapons arrangement with Iran before President Boris Yeltsin agreed in a summit here last Septemberwith President Clinton to forego any new arms contracts with Iran. That still left Russia with ongoing contracts, and it has taken nine months of discussions to whittle away at the situation. The incentive for Moscow was U.S. support for access to more

An independent Arab political daily published by Te Jordan Press Foundation جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية ،الراي،

U.S. protests France-Iran oil deal

WASHINGTON (R) - The United States said on Friday it was disappointed over an agreement by a French oil group to develop Iranian oil fields, and called on the Paris-government not to extend official credits to Tehran. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said the U.S. government had protested to France over the deal signed on Thursday by Total with the National Iranian Oil company to develop two fields in the Gulf (see page I2). "We are certainly disappointed." Mr. Burns told a news briefing. "Deals of the Total type send the wrong signal to the Iranian leadership at the wrong time. We would like to call upon the French government ... not to extend official credits or other financial benefits to Iran." We don't think it's in France's interest to idly stand by for the sake of short-term profit. Mr. Burns added that the United States had a "very deep disagreement" with France on

Volume 19 Number 5967

advanced Western technology.

AMMAN SATURDAY, JULY IS, 1995, SAFAR 17, 1416

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Yemeni president ends visit, pays tribute to Jordan's stands, support

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter .

AMMAN Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh on Friday ended what was seen as a highly successful visit that helped consolidate and expand bilateral relations hetween Yemen and Jordan and boost efforts to restore

Arab solidarity. President Saleh, who was paying his first visit to Jordan after crushing southern Yemeni socialists who challenged the unity of Yemen last year and a successful visit to Saudi Arabia last month to heal a rift between Riyadh and Sanaa, left for Egypt to continue an Arah tour that he hegan in Qatar on Tuesday.

In a cable he sent to His Majesty King Hussein after his departure, President Saleh thanked the King for the "warm feelings and hospitality" accorded to him and the high-level delegation accompanying him, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

In an implicit reference to the role Jordan played in maintaining the unity of Yemen, President Saleh said: The people of Yemen will never forget your noble pan-Arab positions and your support for Yemeni unity during the most difficult and delicate

Arah solidarity and unity were the centreplece of attention at a press

conference President Saleh and King Hussein held Thursday evening after a

round of talks. The King said Jordan was committed to seeking unity, integration and cooperation among Arabs and expressed confidence that the unity of Yemen would be preserved.

President Saleh said he was not mediating between Jordan and Saudi Arabia and that there was no need for any mediation because contacts were continuing between Amman and

He said King Fahd of Saudi Arabia initiated a discussion on Jordan during a meeting the two leaders had in Riyadh last month and expressed his desire to improve ties with Jordan. Mr. Saleh said he briefed King Hussein on the meeting with the Saudi leader.

The Yemeni leader said direct dialogue between the parties concerned was the best means to overcome what he described as artificial barriers. At the press conference.

the King announced that Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti would visit Saudi Arabia today (Saturday). (see separate

story).
The King held a round of closed-door talks with President Saleh shortly. after the Yemeni leader's arrival here from Syria. They were later joined by senior leaders from both

Reports said the King reaffirmed his commitment to supporting all agreements reached between Yemen and Jordan, particularly those agreed upon during a meeting last month of the joint higher committee chaired by the prime ministers of the two countries. He also underlined the need to quickly implement what has been agreed upon.

Petra said King Hussein and President Saleh reviewed current Arab affairs and recent developments and underlined the need to restore Arab solidarity on a firm basis and concept.
The talks were attended

on the Jordanian side by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben-Shaker, His Royal Highness Prince Tal Ben Mohammae, Lower House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Al Srour, the two deputy prime ministers, the foreign minister and the ministers of supply, labour and state and the Jordanian ambassador to Yemen, Fayez

Rabih. The Yemeni side included Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Iryani, Information Minister Mohammad Basandwa, presidential advisor Mohsen Sallami, Abdul Wahah Mahmoud, deputy speaker of

(Continued on page 7)



His Majesty King Hussein nn Friday sees of Yemeni leader's departure from Amman after Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh upoo the a two-day visit (photo by Yousef Allan)

Kabariti visits S. Arabia today in bid to better ties

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabanti heads for Saudi Arabia today in first official visit by a Jordanian minister to Saudi Arabia after Amman-Riyadh relations were strained in the wake of the 1990-91 Gulf

His Majesty King Hussein, in a joint press conference. with visiting Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh on Thursday, confirmed the visit, which comes in response to an official invita-tion by the Saudi foreign minister, Prince Saud Al

"We hope the results of this trip will be positive and good," the King said. "We are confident that it will be

"God willing, it will be another step to build relations on a solid and lasting basis, this is what we hope for what we work for," the King added.

Reports from Saudi Arabia said Prince Faisal had sent an official invitation to Mr. Kabariti as part of what was described as a new policy hy the Saudi leadership to heal the rifts caused by the Gulf

President Saleh of Yemen visited Saudi Arahia last month and Sudan's foreign minister, Ali Osman Mohammad Taha, was In Riyadh this month. Jordan, Yemen and Sudan were among the Arah countries that Saudi Arabia perceived as supporting Iraq

following its invasion of Kuwait.

The French news agency. Agence France Presse, quoted Hani Khalifeh, the Jordanian ambassador in Saudi Arabia, as saying that Mr. Kabariti's talks with Prince Faisal would focus on bilateral relations.

Jordanian officials said they hoped the talks would produce an agreement for a summit meeting hetween King Hussein and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd. The two monarchs met last in Cairo at an Arab summit held immediately after the Aug. 2, 1990, invasion of Kuwait.

One of the immediate tangible results of Mr. Kabariti's talks in Riyadh could be

(Continued on page 3)

each other for failure to agree on new talks

each other for the failure to agree a new date for military talks during a peace shuttle by U.S. envoy Dennis Ross.

But Syria on Friday said Israel had been at fault for its "exaggerated demands" for

peace contacts will resume at ambassadorial level soon despite Washington's failure to fix a date for military talks between the two sides.

States," a senior Syrian official said.

for the resumption of the ambassadors' talks but diplomats expected this to be

Mr. Ross ended a four-day tour of the region on Friday without fixing a date for Syrian-Israeli military talks,

holding intensive talks with the Syrian and Israeli leaderships that more work was needed to narrow the gaps between both sides.

Mr. Rahinovich, Israel's chief negotiator with Syria. accused Damascus of reneging on a pledge made to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher last month. ,

Under the deal, both sides were to have two weeks to part General Hikmat Shehabi not kept its word, he said.

cedural agreements obtained by the secretary of state." Mr. Rahinovich said. "Security talks at the level of senior officials were to

Ross' meetings have re-vealed difficulties and differences.'

added.

Syrian radio hit back at the Israeli criticism saying: "The main cause of failure was the numerous demands from Israel, its renouncement of the principle of equal security and the exaggerated demands

"Security from the Israeli point of view means keeping up the occupation, but in different forms such as observation posts and early

would refuse to satisfy such demands which intend to maintain the occupation and violate national sovereign-

Syria and three to Israel during the week in an attempt to set a date for follow-up talks. But before flying back to the United States empty-

handed overnight, he admit-ted: "There is a lot of hard work to do." "Substantive obstacles"

Senior Israeli officials said Syria had demanded new

tiating security arrangements before obtaining an accord from Israel on the principle of a total withdrawal," from the strategic heights, a foreign ministry official said.

Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa, was told Israel had

Jordan voices deep concern over Bosnia

AMMAN (J.T.) — His friendly countries to ensure Majesty King Hussein on Friday voiced concern over the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina to French President Jacques Chirac in the wake of reports that Serbs were attacking another U.N.-declared "safe area" there after seizing the town of Srebrenica and displacing and mistreating tens of thousands of Bosnian Mus-

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King and President Chirac exchanged views on the situation in Bosnia during a telephone call Friday and agreed to "continue coordination and consultation at various levels to alleviate the suffering of the Bosnian people and ensure the right of the Bosnians to freedom, sovereignty and secur-

ity."
The two leaders also exchanged views on regional and international issues of common interest.

Earlier, an official spokesman, quoted hy Petra, denounced the Serb assault on Bosnian Muslims (see page 12), and reaffirmed Jordan's solidarity with them.

The spokesman voiced deep concern over the situation in Bosnia and said Jordan would extend humanitarian aid to the Bosnian Muslims in line with directives

issued by the King. The spokesman said the government will pursue con-

the implementation of international resolutions which call for the withdrawal of Serb forces and ensuring the unity of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The spokesman said the government had been following up with deep coocern oo the suffering of the Muslim people in Bosnia-Herzegovina as "a result of the brutal Serbian attacks on the innocent old people, women and children, particularly the recent attack on the Srebrenica-area, which had been declared a safe haven in accordance with Uoited Nations resolutions."

The spokesman said Serh forces are threatening to attack the rest of the safe areas in Bosnia-Herzegovina and uprooting the Muslim people from their country.

The government called on the international community and the Arab and Islamic nations to stand hy the Muslim people in former Yugoslavia and to make every effort to put ao end to their sufferiog and enable those who fled their homes to go

The Jordanian government has requested its permanent representative to the United Nations to follow up this subject at the highest U.N. levels to ensure the protection of helpless civilians, deter Serhian forces and help maintain the unity of their soil, the sultation with Islamic and spokesman said.

Australia to play active role in economic summit

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Australia's role in the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process and participation in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit were the key themes for discussions between Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans and Jordanian leaders

here Friday. Mr. Evans, who arrived here Thursday and left to Syria and Lehanon on Friday, was received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker in separate meetings. He also held talks with Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the Crown Prince and Mr. Evans reviewed bilateral relations and means to improve them.....

The Crown Prince also discussed the MENA summit and means to ensuring the success of the conference, which is expected to be attended by government leaders and a large number of international businessmen and economists.

Petra quoted Mr. Evans as reaffirming that his country would participate actively in the summit and praising Jordan's achievements and the

Kingdom's key role in the Middle East and efforts to arrive at a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the

> Earlier, Mr. Evans told reporters after his meeting with Sbarif Zeid that Australia was "well aware of the significance of the Amman summit not only for Jordan hut . for the wider region."

"I have been asked by both the foreign minister and the prime minister for high-level Australian representation, he said. "We certainly will be presented here, and I will take back that recommendation.

Elections in Australia might make it difficult for high-level "movement out of the country," but "again, we are conscious of how important (the summit) is for this country, for this region as a whole," he said.

"We want to be part of the economic future of this region and we certainly will be represented at the highest level we can," said Mr.

Petra said Sharif Zeid and Mr. Evan reviewed bilateral relations and other issues of common concern.

The prime minister highlighted the importance of water to the region and the need to find new water sources to meet the needs of agricul-

(Continued on page 7)

ARAB BANK

anniversary. It is a public shareholding company awned by 3000 shareholders fram all Arab. cauntries.

Boy shot in Nablus

TEL AVIV (AP) - A Palestinian was shot and at least three arrested Friday in stone-throwing incidents on the West Bank. A 17-yearold was shot in the thigh by border police in Nablus, ooe of four West Bank towns that Israeli troops are expected to withdraw from in the fall. An army spokesman said the youth was wounded when police tried to disperse a crowd throwing stones at patrolling police. In Hehron, Palestinians threw stones at horder police, who disbursed the crowd and took three people in for questioning, Israel Radio reported.

6 beheaded in

S. Arabia for murder RIYADH (AFP) — Six Saudis were beheaded Friday in the Riyadh area for murder and theft, the Interiorministry said. Three of them had killed a fruit-seller, and kidnapped and robbed a petrol station worker. The other three had murdered a Saudi. Some II4 people bave been executed in Saudi Arabia since the start of the year compared with 58 in 1994, according to a toll hased on

official figures. Three of 10 New

Yorkers are poor NEW YORK (AFP) — Three in 10 residents of New York lived below the poverty line in 1993, a charity organisation said Friday. An analysis published by the Community Service Society of New York snowed 1.9 million New Yorkers, or 27 per cent of the population. earned less than \$7,363 for the year. "We see this as the result of the contraction of the New York economy, said David Jones, chairman of the organisation, which said this figure was the highest ever in its 16 year history. New York's Hispanic population, which represents 24 per cent of the 7.3 million residents of the city, was most affected, accounting for 46 per cent of those living below the poverty line. "We've been caught up in a regional recession and it has had the wrost impact on unkilled workers," said Mr. Jones.



Israel, PLO launch marathon talks to meet July 25 deadline

ZICHRON YAACOV. Israel (Agencies) — Israel Uri Savir, accompanied by and the Palestine Liberation aides, refused to talk to re-Organisation (PLO) on Friday held the first session of intensive talks aimed at reaching an accord on expanding Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank by a signing date of July 25.

Palestinian negotiator Ahmad Qouriea told Reuters the two sides would resume "intensive and continuous" talks on Sunday at a northern Israeli town where they took over a hotel for the duration of negotiations.

"This is a preparatory meeting," Palestinian negotiator Hassan Asfour said of Friday's talks. The delegations begin a marathon effort in earnest on Saturday night, after the Jewish Sabbatb. staying days and nights at the hotel.

Zichron Yaaciv - meaning "memory of Jacob" was founded in 1882 near the port city of Haifa. Baron Edmon de Rothschild supported the settlement, named after his father, and it was one of the earliest Jewish

settlements of the Zionist movement in Palestine.

The site of the talks, the

110-room Moriah Gardens

Hotel overlooking the

Mediterranean, was closed to

journalists Friday.

porters when they entered the white hilltop hotel. Negotiators reportedly plan to stay at the hotel until an agreement has been

reached. Hotel officials said

Israel's foreign ministry has rented the entire complex for 10 days. Another Palestinian official, speaking on condition he not be identified, said: "After one week of intensive work, both sides will have concluded maps concerning redeployment and security

arrangements." Israeli officials said Friday that some talks would be held at other locations. Possible sites mentioned by Israeli media included the Egyptian resort of Taba and the Israel-PLO liaison office at the Erez crossing between Israel and

the Gaza Strip. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres have agreed in principle that Israeli troops will withdraw completely from the West Bank towns of Kalkiliya, Nablus, Jenin and Tulkarem this fall, to be followed hy Palestiman elections. Troops would remain in the tense

However, the two sides

town of Hehron.

Mr. Qouriea and Israel's still disagree on the dimensions of a pullback from the towns of Ramallah and Beth-Israel has said its troops would only leave the two

towns once bypass roads have been paved for Jewish settlers living in the area. The roads could be ready by the end of the year, Israeli officials have said. The Palestinians demand that in the weeks leading up

to a complete withdrawal

from Ramallah and Beth-

lehem, Israel and the PLO share responsibility for security in the towns. The two sides also plan to make special arrangements for Hehron, a site of frequent frictions between Palestinians

and Jewish settlers. Some 120,000 Jewish settlers live in the West Bank. Settlers have launched a protest campaign against the imminent troop withdrawal, and earlier this week 42 settlers were detained after blocking a West Bank high-

The U.S. State Department announced Thursday a U.S. diplomat, at the request of Israel and Palestinian authorities, will participate in ongoing peace talks in the Middle East.

(Continued on page 7)

|Syria, Israel blame

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel and Syria traded accusations Friday hlaming

"We are waiting for answers from Syria," Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States, told reporters after midnight meetings with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

security guarantees to accompany any Israeli withdrawal on the occupied Golan Heights as part of a peace deal between the countries. Officials and diplomats in Damascus said Syrian-Israeli

"An announcement on the meetings of the Syrian and Israeli ambassadors to the U.S. will be made later. The talks would be held as usual under the auspices and participation of the United

He did not specify a date made soon.

originally planned for mid-He told reporters after

analyze the negotiations in Washington by Israel's Chief of Staff General Amnon Sha-, hak and his Synan counter-

on Juge 27 and 28. Military experts were then to have follow-up meetings. "Israel stands by the pro-

follow the meetings by chiefs of staff," he explained. "Mr.

There was "no concrete result," Mr. Rabinovich

of the so-called security guarantees.

warning stations. "It is natural that Syria

Mr. Ross paid two trips to

still had to be cleared and contacts would continue.

concessions from Israel as a condition for further negotia-"The Syrians feel they have been trapped into nego-

Mr. Ross, who met President Hafez Al Assad and

THE 65th ANNIVERSARY OF

On the morning of 14th July 1930 the Arab Bank was established in Jerusalem with a paid up capital of 15000 Palestinian paunds (about US\$ 75000). Arab Bank's head affice was maved to Amman and the bank was reincorparated in Jordan. This year, the Arab Bank celebrates its 65th'

Currently, Arab Bank Graup has a warldwide diversified network of more than 300 branches. It is ane of the principal financial institutions in the Arab World and ranks among the leading international bonks in terms of equity, earnings and assets. It is engaged in providing a wide variety of financial services to individuals, corporate and institutional customers, government agencies and other international financial institutions. These services include retail banking, private banking. trade financing, merchant banking, commercial lending, real estate lending and international

Jordan, Iraq seriously studying oil pipeline plan

Staff Reporter

AMMAN - A new seriousness has been added to a Jordanian-Iragi proposal to build a pipeline to bring lraqi crude to Jordan and replace the present cuhmersome overland trucking operations. according to informed

They said the proposal to build the 600 kilometre pipeline, which will run from Haditha in Iraq to the Jordanian Petroleum Refinery Company in Zarqa, was one of the main subjects discussed here during the visit last week of a senior Iraqi minis-

Hussein Kamel, the Iraqi minister of industry, held talks with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Racheh during the visit.

The talks also dealt with Jordanian-Iraqi industrial cooperation and means through which Jordanian industrialists could help their Iragi counterparts.

The Jordan News Agency. Petra, said the discussions dealt with "bilateral relations, especially in the economic and trade fields, as well as Arab economic integration and joint Arab industries and the need to revitalise this

Mr. , Kamel told Jordan Television that said Jordan and Iraq were seeking to increase industrial cooperation. He said the discussions also covered the pipeline pro-

ject.
The pipeline proposal was reviewed closely and there is a new focus on realising the proposal since the overland trucking of oil from Iraq is getting too expensive and cumbersome." said a source.

DOHA (AFP) - Qatar's

new emir, who took power io

a bloodless coup last month.

may be forced to cool his

country's relations with Iran

under U.S. and Saudi press-

Oatar is all the more sensi-

tive to such pressure because

it needs the United States to

help it develop its immense

natural gas field which it sbares with Iran, they added.

ton's quick recognition of the

new Qatari government took place after Doha gave assur-

ances it would distance itself

from Iran," an Arab diplo-.

Qatari government offi-

The new emir, Sheikh

cials. I.)wever, said they gave

Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Tha-

ni, who overthrew his father

on June 27, had in the last

few years started a rap-

prochment with Iran and

Iraq that troubled both its

Gulf Arab neighbours and

not stirred too much concern.

know full well that a small

country like Oatar cannot

violate" sanctions against

Iraq, which were imposed af-

ter its 1990 invasion of

In a press conference last

week. Qatari Foreign Minis-

ter Sheikh Hamad Ben Jas-

sem Al Thani said that even if

But its ties with Iraq have

Washington and Riyadh

no such assurances.

the United States.

a diplomat added.

Kuwait, he said.

PROGRAMME TWD

"Riyadh's said Washing-

ure, diplomats here said.

launeh a serious feasibility study on the project soon. and is expecting the Middle East and North Africa economic summit to be held here in October to give a clearer shape to the project.

Industrial cooperation

The Amman Chamber of Industry and the Federation of Iraqi Chambers of Industry have signed an agreement that calls for increased industrial cooperation through exchange of expertise and

The full potential of the agreement, according to Amman Chamber of Industry officials, cannot be realised until the international sanctions against Iraq are removed.

In the meantime, the two sides can cooperate in technical matters, the officials

The initial focus would be on how Jordanian industries could advise Iraqis to convert some of their military industries to civilian purposes. Lurge and expensive

equipment and machinery at military plants are now idle in Iraq following the limitations imposed on the country's military weapons programme in line with the Gulf war ceasefire resolutions.

Iraq is seeking Jordanian expertise on using some of those equipment for civilian purposes on a commercial

Pipeline project

The oil pipeline project is one of the priority proposals of Jordan, which continues to receive about 70,000 barrels of oil daily from lruq -50,000 barrels of crude and 20.000 barrels of fuel oil under an exemption granted

The proposed pipeline will have a capacity to pump 25(LDIII) barrels per day, but the actual quantity is pumped in the initial sleps is expected to be limited to 1180,1881 bar-

Preliminary studies indicate that, in order to meet rising demands for oil in Jordan, work on the 122centimetre diameter pipeline should start in 1996 and be complete by 1998.

Our objective is to cover the needs of Jordan — namely 250,000 harrels of oil per day by the year 2000, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samih Darwazch told the Jordan Times in an April interview.

He said there was no plan to pump Iraqi oil through the pipeline for export. The preliminary studies. which envisaged two phases

of the project — the blil-kilometre section from Huditha to Zarqa and a 350-kilometre section from Zarqa to Aquha — estimated the total cost at about \$1.4 bil-

The estimated cost of the first phase was not immediately available.

The Zarqa-Aqaha section of the project will depend on the realisation of a project to huild a refinery at Aqaha. At present, Jordan spends

about JD 40 million a year for trucking Iraqi oil to Zarqa. iruq levies international prices for the oil but offers a \$1 discount because it is trucked overland, according to Mr. Darwazeh, who in

April renewed signed a

Jordanian-Iraqi agreement for the supply of oil.

Part of the oil comes in settlement of pre-Gulf war crisis Iraqi debts to Jordan. Amman settles the other part with food and medicine ex-

fellow rabbis from over 40 states that called on Congress to maintain its funding of the U.S., Saudi pressure may force Middle East peace process "so that peace and security for Israel can become a real-Qatar to cool ties with Iran

. The U.S. rabbis' action came at a time when Congress is considering whether to renew the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act (MEP-

The act recognised the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the official Palestinian authority and allows the United States to fund it.

The letter voiced strong support for the steps taken by the government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to further peace. .

Rabbi Jonathan Rosenblatt of the Riverdale Jewish Centre, Rabbi Sidney Schwartz of the Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congrega-tion, Rabbi Ammiel Hirsch of the Association of Reform Zionists of America, and Rabbi Stewart Weinblatt of the B'Nai Tzedeck Congregation spoke out on the issue during a Capitol press confer-

ence. They said the mobilisation of 600 rabbis to write Congress was also intended to counter a campaign a few weeks ago by New York rabhis who are sceptical of the peace process to prevent re-newal of MEFPA.

Action had to be taken to inform Congress that the New York rabbis' stance was not representative of the entire U.S. Jewish community,

they said. They accused the New York rabbi and other peace

backing peace process States of "playing on the instincts of the members of Congress who are all pro-Israeli."

ROWN PRINCE MEETS EVANS: His Royal meeting attended by Foreign Minister Abdul Righness Crown Prince Hassan holds talks Karim Kabariti (see story on page one) (Petra with Australian Foreign Minister Gareth photo)

Evans (centre) in Amman on Friday in a

Congress to keep

WASHINGTON (Agencies)

--- U.S. rabbis called on Con-

gress Thursday to renew its

support for the Middle East

peace process, a day after

Orthodox rabbis in Israel

opposed military withdrawal from the West Bank.

Four U.S. rabbis, repre-

senting 600 of their col-

leagues, denounced a letter

by 15 Israeli rabbis who cal-

led Wednesday on Israeli sol-

diers to ignore government

orders to withdraw from the

They said the Israeli rab-

bis' call was "fostering insta-

bility in Israeli society," but

probably did not echo major-

The four circulated a letter

in Congress signed by 600

ity of Israeli sentiment.

West Bank.

American rabbis urge

Such action was deceitful, they said, because in the present context only peace could belp strengthen an Israel faced with the growing thread of religious fanaticism.

The four rabbis praised the PLO for keeping its promise to oppose violence and stressed that Israel's security could only be furthered by bolstering the Palestinian Authority

They warned that a U.S. withdrawal from MEFPA would cause other countries to follow suit, with "devastating consequences for the The administration mean-

while asked Congress let it continue helping pay for government operations and economic development in Gaza and the West Bank. The request received a

boost from the American

Already extended for 45 days, the MEPFA act boosts the Palestinian Authority.

"This legislation is a key element underpinning our assistance programme." Richard Roth of the State Department told a senate panel. "It has helped PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat of the importance of seriously addressing security prerequisite to progress."

In earlier hearings, U.S. lawmakers have heard State Department assessments that Mr. Arafat lacked the political will and his police lacked the training and expertise to crack down on Palestinian groups bent on aborting peace moves through vio-

Mr. Roth, head of the department's Office of Israel and Arab-Israeli Affairs, reported Thursday "remarkable achievements" towards greater Palestinian security enforcement, heightening Israeli confidence to accommodate Palestinian needs.

The administration wants a "longer-term extension (of the spending law) while permitting us to continue our leading role in the donor effort" for the Palestinians, Mr. Roth said.

State Department and congressional experts are negotiating an extension, said department spokeswoman Julia

Barak fights for political

TEL AVIV (R) — A former Israeli army chief battled for his political life on Thursday in a hard-hitting national television appearance in which he denied ignoring wounded soldiers in the field.

Retired Lieutenaot-General Ehud Barak, 53, is on a political fast track and has long been touted as a future prime minister. He is slated to become interior minister in August, just six months after completing his term as army chief of staff.

Last Friday, Israel's most popular newspaper, Yedioth Ahronoth, landed the general in a media minefield. It quoted witnesses as saying that Sen. Barak stood with his arms folded and did

nothing when a missile exploded near a group of sol-diers during a 1992 training exercise. Five were killed and six wounded. The report is totally mali-

clous." Sen. Barak said in an Israel television interview in which he stressed that "two to three people" had tended to each casualty while he kept bis cool and coordinated a belicopter evacuation as a senior officer should. "I simply did what I think a

cbief of staff should do and what any other army chief would bave done in my place," Sen. Barak said. He described the editors of Yedioth Ahronoth as "a mili-

tant and power-hungry group trying to carry out a politically timed character assassina-Yedioth editor Moshe Var-

dy responded in a statement which said Sen. Barak "had grown accustomed only to complimentary news re-Sen. Barak has all the traditional qualifications of a

top Israeli political leader a vounted military record and a demeanour that bucks challenge, much like his mentor, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Speaking about himself in

the third-person, Sen. Barak said: "He has been in the field 35 years and personally icd dozens of operations."
"He has been shot at, not

just once, from a distance no further than that between you and mc," Sen. Barak told his television interviewer. "He has shot people from a distance at which you see the white of their eyes."

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Syria trying to buy reactor from Argentina

TEL AVIV (AP) - A newspaper reported Friday that Israel is concerned about attempts by Syria to buy a nuclear reactor from Argnetina and will seek U.S. intervention. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has asked the Israeli ambassador to Washington, Itmar Rabinovich, to take up the issue with U.S. State Department officials, Yediot said. Israel's atomic energy commission advised the foreign ministry this week that "Israel must strongly opposed the intention of Argentina to sell to Syria a nuclear reactor for research purposes." Yediot said. "The Syrian requests reflect a desire to develop a comprehensive national nuclear project. Yediot quoted from the commission's letter to the foreign ministry. Argentine officials have assured Israel in recent months that they did not plan to sell a nuclear reactor to Syria, the newspaper said. However, it has become known that Argentina has notified the United States of its plans to sell such a reactor to Syria, the newspaper said.

Lebanon smashes counterfeiting ring

BEIRUT (AP) - Authorities have smashed a Lebanese counterfeiting ring after it marketed \$2 billion in forged 100 bills throughout the Middle East, judicial sources said Friday. Ring members admitted also forging large amounts of deutschemarks. Saudi Arabian riyals and UAE dirhams in 500-unit denominations since 1982, the sources said. speaking on condition of anonymity. Thirteen members of the ring, belonging to various sectarian communities, have been arrested. A manhunt for four others was still under way, the sources said, declining to give arrest dates. The detainees confessed they operated from east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley for the past 13 years, using four sophisticated printing machines and the same paper for the different eurrencies, the sources added. Reports in the U.S. and Middle Eastern media have recently spoken of massive dollar counterfeiting operations in the Bekaa Valley since the latter years of Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war. They said a four-man team of Saudi expertrs is taking part in the interrogation of the suspects. The U.S. and German embassies refused comment.

Sudan retires 70 army officers

KHARTOUM (AFP) - The Sudanese army sent into retirement 70 high-ranking officers, including three generals, army sources said on Thursday. The retirements were not for political reasons, the sources said, underlining that they came "routionely at the beginning of every fiscal year" and were "dictated by the process of promotions and transfers." General Al Rashid Mahjoub, commander of the Wadi Sayedna air base, Mohamamd Salih Khalil, director of foreign procurements, and Mohammad Abdullah Farah, whose post was not specified, headed the list of retirees. Some 25 colonels among the retired were promoted to brigadiere after their dismissal and the remaining officers ranked between heutenant colonel and lieutenant. the sources said. Some of the officers could be appointed to political posts later, the source said, noting that General Mansur Abdul Rahim, retired in 1993, was now a state minister for defence.

Prosecutor urges review of Jarallah verdict

CAIRO (AFP) - The Egyptian prosecutor general's office has called for a review of the jail sentence imposed on a Kuwaiti journalist for defamation, Al Ahram newspaper reported. Ahmad Al Jarallah, editor of the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Siyassah, was sentenced in absentia on June to two years' imprisonment for defamation of an Egyptian television presenter, Nagwa Ibrahim. The prosecutor's office called for a review of the court's verdict on procedureal grounds. Al Siyassah reported that Ms. Ibrahim had been implicated in drug trafficking. The story was based on a report from the Syrian news agency SANA which later ran a denial but the Kuwaiti daily failed to publish it. Under Egyptian law, Mr. Jarallah would have to be tried again if arrested inside the country.

Flood kills at least 15 in Turkish town

ANKARA (R) - Flash floods have inundated a town in western Turkey, killing at least 15 people and injuring 30. Anatoliana news agency said on Friday. Heavy raiun swept away about 60 homes in the town of Senirkent, in Isparta provionce, the agency quoted Governor Ertugrul Bokuzoglu as saying, "Fifteen bodies have been taken from under the rubble." Mr. Dokuzoglu said. He said 30 peoeple were injured and he feared emergency services would find more bodies under the mud and dcbris. Interior Minister Nahit Mentese flew to the town together with rescue teams with sniffer dogs. Unseasonal rains in the past week have caused flooding which killed at least six people and damaged more than 3,000 homes in Istanbul and Ankara.

Kurd rebels abduct Japanese tourist

ANKARA (R) - Kurdish rebels have kidnapped a Japanese tourist from a bus in southeast Turkey. Anatolian news agency said on Friday. Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) guerrillas abducted the tourist at a rebel checkpoint on a road near the town of Siirt on Thursday night after extorting money from passengers, the agency said. It said the tourist's personal details were not immediately available. The rebels set fire to a lorry and clashed with security forces during the abduction but the agency did not say if there were any casualtics. An operation to find the tourist was launched. Anatolian said. The PKK, fighting for independence or autonomy in southeast Turkey, has often kdinapped foreign tourists in the region in recent years. All have been freed unharmed.

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel. - 773711-19

14:00 Back to the Future	
14:30 Harry and the Hendersons	
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16:00 Families	
17:00	
Les Jumeaux Du Bout Du Monde	
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Sheikh Hamad Al Thani

his country felt solidarity to-

wards the Iraqi people, "Iraq must apply all U.N. resolu-

Another diplomat said

"sugar diplomacy doesn't

really bother anyone and

does not violate international

Oatar early this year sent

"Except for reestablishing

two shipments of sugar to

Baghdad to ease the "suffer-

diplomatic relations and

Doha's repeated calls for lift-

ing the embargo. Qatar and

Iraq have almost no econo-

mic ties," the diplomat said.

with Iran would seriously

concern Gulf Arab states, he

added. "Riyadh insists that

the rapprochement begun be-

However, improved ties

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German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tcl. 694195

The Latter-Day Saints Tcl. 654932

Church of Nazarene Tcl. 675691.

The Evangelical Local Church in

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Yesterday's high remperatures: Amman 28, Aquba 37 Humidity

want "Iran to succeed in undermining the council," which also groups Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Omao. Qatar bas signed several

tween Qatar and Iran in 1992 must not burt the GCC (Gulf

Saudi Arabia does not

Cooperation Council)."

trade agreements with Iran and says Iran cannot be Arab monarchies discuss ways to ensure regional

Sheikh Hamad Ben Jassem has also left the door open for a change in course in foreign

Qatar is relying on the Un-ited States and their oil companies Mobil and Enron to develop liquefied natural gas in the North Field.

Doha will develop this field, which holds around five trillion cubic metres of gas on the Qatari side and three trillion cubic metres on the Iranian side, but band 10 per cent of the revenues to Iran. economists here said.

"Qatar fears Iran will demand an increase in the percentage and the participation of American companies is a kind of guarantee against such a demand," another diplomat explained.

The foreign minister stressed that ties with Iran would harm nobody's interests and would follow the principle of non-interference in the Gulf countries' affairs.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

readings: Amman 52 per cent. Agaha 34 per cent.

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AIRPORT

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Mana (Nuka schiffons T cumbers (Line) scumbers (57%)

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tion committee does not exceed an average of JD 1,700 per month since the beginning of the committee's work, he said. arrow (SE-211) ion idni riog aper (See

penses.

"All the expenses of the liquidation committee are closely supervised and subject 10 close detailed inspection by the auditors of the Central Bank," he said. "There are very clear contracts and agreements which are verified and authenti-



Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Environment Nader Thuheirat Thursday declares final results of the municipal elections that were held Tuesday and Wednesday (Petra photo)

Thuheirat: Elections 'fair and free'

AMMAN (J.T.) - Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Nader Thubeirat addressed a press conference Thursday to sum up the results of the municipal elections in Jordan.

Addressing the press one day after the end of the elections which were held Tuesday and Wednesday, the minister said that the elections were held in a fair, free and democratic atmosphere and that there were no violations whatsoever of municipal laws and regulations.

The Islamic Action Front (IAF) candidates won tbe mayorsbip in ten councils which included those in Irbid, Madaba and Karak cities and those in the small towns of Lib. Ma'in, Kufrunjeh, Malih, Rawda, Kufor Almaa and Ain Janneh, Mr.

Thubeirat said. -A total of 23 members" of the IAF won as members' in several areas including three in Karak, two in Aqaba, four in Jerasb, six in Irbid, one in Ajloun, one in Balqa, two in Madaba, five in Zarqa, two inTafileb, one in Mafraq,

Amman (Petra) -- Under the

Patronage of Her Royal

Highness Princess Sumaya

Bint Al Hassan, the first

batch of graduates from

Princess Sumaya University

College For Technology

will he graduated today,

completing requirements of

graduation from the college.

Dean Mobammad Qasem

Qarioti, this is the first

batch of graduates from the

college which was

established in 1991 to offer

bachelor degrees in

said, pointing out that there

were 329 cases involving a total of JD 450 million.

Given the size of the

amount and number of cases

of involved, the litigation

charges were negligible — 0.5

per cent - he pointed out.

expenses represented re-

trenchment benefits paid to

Petra Bank employees when

their services were termin-

ated at the outset of the work

of the liquidation committee,

Dr. Nahulsi said. The rest

represented general ex-

the members of the liquida-

The honorarium paid for

Another 14 per cent of the

computer science.

According to College

successfully

and three in the Amman area, according to the minister.

Results show that the LAF won .018 per cent of the seats and 3.9 per cent of the mayorsbips.

The ministry, Mr. Thuheirat announced, is currently preparing for a general conference for all mayors, 99 per cent of whom are serving on councils for the first time.

In his reference to

cooperative measures between the ministry and the councils where IAF members won seats, the minister said local governments independent and have authorities invested in them by the municipal law and that therefore they can exercise their work freely witbout any and intervention from any one.

The ministry, he noted. deals with the councils as i sit irepresentatives of local communities and not on the strength of their political views. Mr. Thuheirat also added that since most of the councils suffer from accumulated debts. assistance from the ministry is always

Princess Sumaya

The 72 graduates, he join the labour market

Nabulsi: Criticism unfounded

(Continued from page 12)

said, have been trained to

expenses of the committee

represented 7.9 per cen1 of

the amount it collected since

it began its work and it is very

low compared to the amount

jected as out of context a

statement taken from the re-

port of Arthur Anderson,

The international auditing

firm which inspected the

books of Petra Bank, that the

collapsed hank's total losses

amounted to "eight times the

has collected much more than

Arthur Anderson estimated

it would collect, and, com-

mittee members said recent-

ly, they stood to collect

another significant part of the

dues owed to Petra Bank,

decision to refer the case to

the prosecutor general to

check for irregularities, Dr.

Nabulsi said: "We at the

Central Bank of Jordan wel-

come all inquiries and inves-

tigations since we are confi-

dent that close inspection

would only establish the true

facts in the affair."

As to Parliament's recent

Dr. Nahulsi said.

The liquidation committee

capital and reserves."

The CBJ governor also re-

il seeks to collect.

The minister estimated the rate of women participation in the elections at 48.6 per cent, while 125 judges chaired committees entrusted with counting the votes among the 259 committees.

All in all, according to Mr. Thuheirat, 13,000 officials were involved in the elections procedures and the number of registered voters was 798,274 of whom 71.33 per cent voted in the elections.

Mr. Thubeirat also announced that the ministry was in the process of expanding its cooperation with the local councils and involving the Cities and Villages Development Bank in financing local projects.

The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment said in a statement later that the following women won seats in the councils: Amneh Bia'aydeh, Karak, Ibtisam Ushush, Ghor Safi, Aisheh Abu Salem, Irbid, Fandieh Umeish, Huson, Najah Abu Hazim, Mahis, Muyassar Abbadi, Yaraqa, Siham Madain, Fuheis, Faddah Hadidi, Twal and Muntaha Irsheid, Madaba.

singled out the fisberies industries as the main area Princess Sumaya to graduate available for investors at the present moment. 1st batch of college students immediately graduation because of the specialised training they

received at the bands of the

college. Courses, which

focus on computer science

and electronic engineering,

seek to meet local and Arab

labour markets needs for

well-trained specialists in

computer and electronic

engineering. The computer

science programme, offered

at the college, has been

approved by the Ministry of

Higher Education, while the

electronic engineering

programme is still awaiting

accreditatioo by the

Save water...

every drop

counts!

ministry, Mr Qarion said.

The Yemeni minister called oo the Jordanian. private sector to coordinate with their colleagues in Yemen in order to enhance trade and economic relations between the two countries. He pledged full support from the Yemeni

according to a statement after the meeting. The statement also said

Discussions at the

meeting also dealt with the

prospects of establishing a

permanent exhibition of

Jordanian industrial

products in Yemen to

enable Jordanian businesses

to maintaio direct contact

with Yemeni consumers,

the two sides discussed setting up a joint investment company to handle fishing and export of fish to Jordan. The two sides agreed to follow up discussions between economists and businessmen from botb

Attending the talks were the chairman and members of the Amman Chamber of Industry, the chairman and members of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce as well as a group of representatives of the private sector in Jordan.

Seven-year-old killed, 3 injured in road accident

49% pass Tawjihi

AMMAN (J.T.) - The Ministry of Education Thursday

announced the results of the Tawjihi examinations of the 1994-1995 scholastic year in the literary, scientific.

commercial, agricultural, industrial, nursing and hotel

The results of the Tawjihi exams, sat for by 77,067

students out of a registered 84,358 in the Kingdom.

were announced by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister

of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh at a press

Forty-nine per cent of those who sat for their

Percentages of those who passed in each category

were 41.2 per cent in the literary stream, 61.5 per cent in the scientific stream, 49 per cent in the commercial,

37.5 per cent in the agricultural, 51.4 per cent in the

industrial, 62.4 per cent in nursing and 59.2 per cent in

Female students came on the top of the list of

The minister also stated that results were relatively

The Ministry of Education apparently chose to delay

the announcement of the results until after the results of

the municipal elections so as not to influence the

course of municipal voting in any way, according to

Mr Rawabdeh expressed satisfaction with the Tawjihi

results and said that the ministry was able to work

faster at obtaining this year's results because it had

opened marking centres in Karak, Ma'an, Balqa and

Zarqa as opposed to only Amman and Irbid in the

Jordan and Yemen

hold trade talks

successful students in the literary, commercial and

low in the literary stream and that students in the

hotel management, according to Mr. Rawabdeh.

nursing streams, the minister said.

vocational streams fared much better.

examinations passed, while 1.894 students were disqualified from sitting for their examinations for having exceeded the limit of school absenteeism, Mr.

management fields.

conference.

Rawabdeh said.

Mr. Rawabdeh,

AMMAN (Petra) --

Mioister of Supply Adel

Qudah Friday beld talks

with his Yemeni

counterpart, Abdul Rahman

Balfadel, to discuss

economic and trade relations

between Jordan and Yemen.

The two ministers reviewed

ways in which they can

promote economic and trade

ties between the two

Dr Balfadel, wbo is'

accompanying President Ali

Abdullah Saleb on his visit

to Jordan, outlined the areas

where investment is

possible in Yemen and

countries.

Zarqa (Petra) -- A seven year-old girl was killed and three members of her family were injured Thursday when the small truck they were in overturned near the refioery on the Zarga road.

Rihab Ali Khalaf was killed in the accident while his father Ali (55), her brothers Jihad and hospital.

accident. The three of them were rushed to

Imad (13 and 10

were injured in the

Hashem Prince hospital and were listed in moderate condition. Hospital sources said the injured suffered fractures bruises and are being treated at the

Kabariti visits S. Arabia today

(Continued from page 1)

the return of the Saudi ambassador to Jordan 10 raise the charge d'affaireslevel of representation at the Saudi mission here since Riyadh recalled the envoy in

Jordan sent back its ambassador to Riyadh early this

In comments to reporters on Thursday, President Saleh said he was not mediating between Jordan and Saudi Arabia but that he briefed King Hussein on the talks he held with King Fahd in Riyadh in his first visit there after the Gulf crisis.

President Saleh said last month that King Fahd had raised the issue with him and told him that he wanted to improve relations with Jor-

Saudi Arabia had been resisting repeated Jordanian efforts for reconciliation, and the official invitation extended to Mr. Kabariti was taken as a sign of a shift in that position.

Riyadh has already lifted several restrictions it imposed on Jordanians since the Gulf crisis. These include multiple-entry visas to Jordanians truck drivers who transit through Saudi territory. increased visas for Jordanians to work in Saudi Arabia and permission of family members to join Jordanian ex-

patriates in Saudi Arabia. Mr. Kabariti's visit to Saudi Arahia comes after an intense effort he launched on the diplomatic level to improve Jordan's ties with all Arab countries. He has already visited the United Arah Emirates (UAE), Oman, Qatar and Bahrain, Saudi Arabia's partners in the Gulf Cooperation Coun-

reconciliation efforts were former Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and former Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Fayez. according to the sources. Details of Ďr. Majali's and Mr. Fayez's efforts were not immediately available.

According to informed sources, Mr. Kabariti had been holding behind-thescene meeting with Arab diplomats from the Gulf since he took over as foreign minister in January.

Better Saudi-Jordanian relations are also expected to lead to an improvement in ties between Jordan and

Sources said Jordan was hoping to reopen its embassy in Kuwait City in the next two months. The mission was closed shortly after the liberation of Kuwait in early 1991.

According to the sources. Mr. Kabariti had been receiving "positive signals" from Kuwait to his efforts to imcil (GCC) along with Kuwait. prove relations. Also contributing to the



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Friday receives at the Royal Court Ibrahim Abdullah Hassan, who was victimised in the West following the Oklahoma blast last April (Petra

Prince Hassan receives suspect victim of Oklahoma City blast

Amman (Petra) -- His Royal Highness Prince Hassan Thursday received at the Royal Court Ibrahim Abdullah Hassan, a Jordanian citizen, who was recently acquitted by US courts, of charges that he was responsible for the blowing up of the Federal building in Oklahoma early this year.

Mr. Hassan, who lives in the United States, voiced appreciation to Prince Hassan for receiving him and for the interest he sbowed in his case.

Mr. Hassan, who arrived recently from the U.S., praised Prince Hassan's efforts to amend the image of Islam in the West, defend the interests of Muslims, and to spread Islam's message - of tolerance, moral values and principles in the international fora.

Prince Hassao was briefed by Mr. Hassan on the cruel treatment be was subjected to when held as a suspect after the April Oklahoma bombing which killed 164 people. He spoke about bis suffering and that of his family as a result of the inhumane treatment they received at the hands of U.S officials.

Mr. Hassan upon receiving information from Americans who said that they saw some people with Middle Eastern features in the area where the explosion took place.

Mr. Hassan, bowever. said several US officials officially apologised to him after he was found innocent and cleared from the charges labelled against

the US Senate, be said.

Jordanian government for

its interest in him and for following up on his case. He called upon the international community to learn from this experience and to cease accusations against Arabs and Muslims in the events of terrorist attacks.

US authorities arrested Islam does not allow the killing of innocent people, he said. Mr. Hassan was born in

Those who apologised officially ... were. the Oklahoma governor and the Oklahoma representative at

Mr Hassan thanked the

the Israeli-occupied West Bank town of Jenin in 1963. He was in Chicago airport right after the blast where he was first questioned and then released. His Rome-bound luggage arrived without him, where it drew the attention of Italian airport authorities for containing material that 'could be used to make explosives'. Mr. Hassan was theo detaioed by British officials in Londoo and seot back to the U.S. for questioning.



CROWN PRINCE AWARD: Her Royal Highnesses Princess Rahma Bint Al Hassan Friday attends the graduation of participants in the silver phase of the Crown Prince Award programme. At a special ceremony held at Qala't Ajloun (Ajloun castle), Princess Rahma delivered certificates to 63 girls who took part in the programme, organised by the Crown Prince Award Office. Princess Rahma, along with the

graduating girls, toured Ajloun castle and were briefed by the Department of Antiquities director on the castle's history and the restoration works done by the department. On Thursday Princess Rahma participated in the scientific day activities in Ajloun, which included dismantling and fixing firearms, shooting and mountain climbing (Petra photo)

WHAT'S GOING ON

LECTURE

Lecture (in Arabic) entitled "The Arab Nation: Present and Future" by former Egyptian Prime Minister Aziz Sedki at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6.30 p.m.

EXHIBITION

Works by Khdeir Shukraji at Ab'ad Art Gallery.

* Paintings by Muhannad Bushnaq at Balqa Art Gallery.

Paintings by Adnan Yahyah at Darat Al Funun. * Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past

century at the French Cultural Centre.

China's Qian blames U.S. on strained ties, wants pledge

BONN (R) — China's Foreign Minister Qian Qichen blamed the United States Friday for a row between the two countries, worsened by Beijing's arrest of human rights activist Harry Wu on

spying charges. He urged Washington to promise to refrain from action that would strain bilateral relations as a way to beal

China has been angered by a U.S. recision to allow a visit by Taiwan President Lee Teng-Hui, even though Beijing considers Taiwan a rebel province.

Relations were further hit by the arrest of Mr. Wu, a Chinese-American last

The current difficulties in Sino-U.S. relations are caused entirely by the United States," Mr. Qian told a news conference during a state visit by Chinese President Jiang

Asked what China expected Washington to do about this, Mr. Qian replied: "I recent actions by the United States have been erroneous actions and that such actions will not be repeated in fu-

Mr. Oian reiterated China's position that the case of Mr. Wu, whom the U.S. wants freed immediately, was a matter for the courts.

Mr. Wu, born in China buut now a U.S. citizen, spent 19 years in Chinese prison labour camps for dissi-

The U.S. State Department maintains he is not a spy and says bis detention will damage bilateral rela-

"He went to China not as a tourist, nor to visit any of his relatives, nor to attend any international conference, Mr. Qian said. "What was his purpose? We will see after

The United States, reacting to Beijing's conditions for repairing damaged ties, Thursday reaffirmed its longheld view that Taiwan is part of China.

The administration also

ruled out moving a U.N. Taiwan is part of it, and conference from China to declare Mr. Lee will not be another venue, rejecting pressure to retaliate over the June 19 arrest of human

rights activist Harry Wu. Meanwhile, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger warned that Sino-U.S. relations are in a "free fall" and called for a cooling-off period

China Thursday softened its tone toward the United States, urging patience in Wu's case but repeating its call for concrete action by Washington to improve tense

in the dispute over Mr. Wu.

State Department spokes-man Nieholas Burns replied: 'We have shown a great deal of parience." He called for Mr. Wu's immediate release and said it is up to Beijing to act to tionship. stabilise the rela-

The New York Times, reporting on an interview with a senior Chinese official, said Beijing demanded that Mr. Chinton personally reaffirm there is only one China and allowed more U.S. visits. U.S. officials said China

privately made similar requests, prompting recent reaffirmations of the one-China policy.

"There's no need... to restsate the American view that there is one China," Mr. MeCnrry told reporters. "That is consistently stated U.S. policy and we accept the Chinese view that Taiwan is part of China."

As for Mr. Lee visiting the United States, Mr. McCurry said: "According to our policy, President Lee would not be allowed to make an offi-cial visit to the United States (but any requests for private visits) we would consider on a case-by-case basis." No requests bave been made, he

U.S. officials said privately it is virtually certain Mr. Lee will not get a visa for a return U.S. visit soon although visits by other Taiwanese officials may be permitted.

Shuttle crew deploys NASA satellite CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. Discovery's 21st tlight set a U.S. psace landing and the fRI — The space shuttle Discovery, delayed five weeks by will be devoted to secondary launch of the next one. Six days ago, shuttle brought a NASA astronaut experiments in biomedicine. lovelorn woodpeckers, finally took wing Thursday and suc-

cessfully placed a hugh NASA communications satellise into orbit. Discovery's crew of five

astronauts accomplished the chief goal of their mission just a little more than six hours after liftoff when they ejected the massive satellite from the shuttle's open cargo

"That's a deploy," mission specialist Don Thomas said as the \$330 million satellite and its \$110 million attached booster rocket sprung free at 3:55 p.m. EDT (1055 GMT). 184 mles (296 kms) above the Pacific Ocean near Hawaii.

Discovery, excellent joh. Happy faces here," mission control's Tom Jones said in Houston.

Aboot an hour later, the Boeing intertial upper stage fired automatically to propel the satellite toward its destination, a parking spot 22.000 miles (35.400 kms) over the Pacific. "The satellite and its boos-

ter phase deployed right on time. The tracking and data relay satellite... is on its way to its permanent orbital home." NASA commentator James Hartsfield said.

and two cosmonaus back from a stay at the Russian space station Mir. The previous record was nine days, Discovery made its climh

to oribt with a new engine that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration says is more tuelefficient and less prone to mechanical problems.
"Liftoff of the space shut-

tle Discovery, to complete NASA's constellation of tracking stations in the sky." NASA commentator George Diller said as Discovery hlusted off at about 9:42 a.m. EDT (1342 GMT).

"The quick-look data from the engine folks says that that thing performe right down the middle of the parametres." mission management team chairman Loren Shriver told a news confer-

Discovery lifted off 50 seconds past its appointed time-because of a minor glitchtom its safety destruct system, NASA officials said after the laonch from Florida's Kennedy Space Centre. __After the satellite deployphysics, technology and military missile senior develop-At the helm is Commander Tom Henricks, accompanied

by co-pilot Kevin Kregel and mission specialists Don Thomas. Nancy Currie and Mary Ellen Weber.

NASA space controllers have switched to new, ultramodern headquarters to monitor the Discovery's current mission.

That old mission control centre is an icon. It's been a symbol for billions of people of humanity's pursuit in space." veteran astronaut Story Musgrave told the Discovery's crew as NASA was celebrating the move to the new \$250 million room late Thorsday.

The next 30 years, hopefully, will carry us just as far as the last 30 years did," Discovery commander Hen-

ricks replied.

The switch from the old Mission Control occurred three-and-half hours after Discovery deployed the \$330million Satellite that will replace the one that was des-troved in the Challenger explosion on Jan. 28, 1986. killing all seven astronauts on board.

Hugh Grant: Prostitute episode was disloyal

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LOS ANGELES (R) - British movie star Hugh Grant continued his U.S. round of public mea culpas Wednesday, saying he had been disloyal to his longtime girlfriend Elizabeth Hurley with his encounter with a Hollywood prostitute. "I am very sorry." the star of Four Weddings And A Funeral said on the nationally televised Larry King Live talk show on Cable News Network. Grant pleaded no contest Tuesday to charge of having sex with a prostitute he picked up on Hollywood's famed Sunset Boulevard last month. He was fined \$1,800 and ordered to take a course on the danger of AIDS. Asked about the midnight episode by King, Grant responded, "I don't have excuses... and I'm very sorry." He said it was difficult to say why he did what he did, and that to use excuses offered by various people, such as stress and pressure, "would be a bit false." "In the end you have to come elear and say it was disloyal and shabby and selfhe added. Grant's shame fuelled speculation on both sides of the Atlantic that Hurley, an English beauty who is one of the world's top models and the "new face" of Estee Lauder cosmetics, had ditched him over the incident after an eight-year relationship. But Grant insisted he and Hurley were still together, at least for now. We're together, yeah. I can't say everything's gring to be rosy. Only time will tell. The wounds are still relative- ,, ly fresh," he said.

George Michael settles row with Sony

LONDON (AFP) - The British pop singer George Michael settled his one-year legal row with the Japanese Sony record company and signed a contract with Virgin, owned by Thorn-EMI, a Virgin spokesman announced. The 32-year-old pop singer. who has sold millions of albums worldwide since starting out as a member of the Wham! group, declined to reveal the terms of his release from Sony or the details of his new contract with Virgin. Jeremy Silver, a Virgin spokesman, did say that Michael would be producing his first new album in 12 months' time and that the pop singer's contract covered the whole world except North America, where Michael has signed with Dreamworks SKG. Dreamworks SKG is a new record label co-owned by three Hollywood figures, film-director Steven Spielberg, music producer David Geffen and Jeffrey Katzenberg formerly from Wall Disney. As one of the most famous singers worldwide in recent years, Michael's earnings through these new contracts are likely to total tens

LONDON (R) - Engineers Friday made a famous Scot-

Paloma Picasso to divorce

PARIS (AFP) — Paloma Picasso is to divorce her husband of 17 years Argentine businessman Rafael Lopez Cambil, But the couple, who live in London but separated in January, are to remain friends and business partners. a statement said. "We will remain the best friends in the world," said the statement by Pablo Picasso's daughter. who is behind a range of iewellery and perfumes as well as other ventures. Pledging that they were "united by close links of friendship and trust," the statement said they would "remain associated on an equal basis in all their business affairs." In hind ventures in fashion accessories and leather work.

of millions of dollars,

metres long.

The crew of the space shuttle Discovery tBottom left to right) Nancy Currie. Mary Weber, Commander Tom Henricks, ttop left to right) Donald Thomas and pilot Kevin Kregel leave the crew quarters at Kennedy

board the shuttle. The Discovery is set for an eight-day mission to ptace a Tracking and Data Relay Satellite in orbit (AFP photo)

Centre for the short trip to launch pad 39-B to

SEOUL (AFP) - Rescuers sifting through the rubble of wbat used to be a posh shopping centre here dug out 18 more bodies Friday, bringing the confirmed death toll in the June 29 collapse to 281. More than 360 were still on

the missing list.
Seoul City Mayor Cho
Soon, meanwhile publicly
apologised over the shocking bungle in the count of the missing in the collapse, and warned that more disasters could be waiting to happen.

"In reality, we cannot ex-clude the possibility that a similar disaster might occur," he said, adding that so many buildings in Seoul had been burriedly built during rapid industrialisation in the 1970s and 1980s that many had "structural problems."

"I, as the elected mayor of Seoul, deeply apologise for arousing suspicions among the people and increasing mistrust (in the city govern-ment)," Mr. Cho said at a meeting with journalists.

Mr. Cho, running on the

ticket of the main opposition Democratic Party, was elected Seoul mayor in the first local elections in 34 years on June 27, two days before the disaster.

Seoul city officials Thursday suddenly almost doubled the number of missing in the collapsed to 409 after finding another 203 missing in a separate list filed by district offi-

They later cut down the number to 394 after taking on 11 who had already been counted as confirmed dead and tour others who had been counted twice or had reap-

On Friday, the nubmer of missing decreased further to 367, but this figure probably included several people whose disappearance might have nothing to do with the disaster, officials said. Prosecutors. meanwhile,

questioned a district office head "about the details surrounding his approval" of the modification of the ill-fated Sampoong Department Store building. The official, Cho Nam-Ho.

, approved the store's plan to convert warehouse facilities on the first basement floor into sales space in August 1994, which contributed to the weakening of the fivestory structure.

Prosecutors also investigated five officials from the Socho District Office, two Seoul City officials and four Sampoong executives to see if kickbacks were offered to Mr. Cho. a spokesman said.

State Department spokes-Earlier this week, the proman David Johnson said the secution arrested two former information related to an chiefs of the Socho District attack south of the Panama-Colombia border, thus ex-Office on charges of taking some \$15,000 each from Samcluding Central America and poong in return for overlook-Mexico. But he said it was ing irregolarities and modnot known in which country the attack might come. ifications. "We are unable to exclude

The mayor blamed the old habit of withholding everything from the public, nurtured among city officials during past military govern-

He also cited the lack of coordination between the headquarters and a district office, which had filed a separate list of the missing.

Philippines accepts U.S. autopsy findings on maid

MANILA (R) — The Philip-pines, saying it wanted to put behind it a controversy with Singapore over the hanging of a Filipina maid, Friday accepted key findings in the case by U.S. forensic experts. Foreign Undersecretary Rodolfo Severino said Manila accepted the U.S. findings that confirmed murder victim

Delia Maga died by manual strangulation. The U.S. result endorses the original Singapore findings that formed part of the prosecution's case against Flor Contemplacion, hanged in Singapore's Changi Prison in March after confessing to killing Maga and a Singapo-

rean boy. Mr. Severino told a news conference the Philippine government was satisfied with the results of the U.S. forensic examination of Maga's skeletal remains and accepted them as final.

Asked if the government was prepared to normalise relatio with Singapore, Severino said: "We have been on the road to normalisation and this is in the interest of

oth countries. The examination of Maga's remains by three American scientists was done to resolve conflicting findings of Philippine and Singaporean experts on the cause of her death.

Contemplacion's execution for the murder set off angry protests in the Philippines, where many felt she was in-Relations between the two

Asian neighbours had been strained since the hanging. President Fidel Ramos withdrew the Philippine ambassador to Singapore and threatened to sever diploma-

WASHINGTON (R) — The

"The United States gov-

ernment bas information that

Middle Eastern terrorists

may be planning an attack

against an unspecified U.S.

target in South America dur-

will be provided as it becom-

es available," was all the

any form of terrorism," Mr.

Johnson said, adding that if it

happened it could be directed

against U.S. institutions or

citizens (in South America)

to be alert and to be cautious

"We are urging U.S.

announcement said.

Additional information

ing July 1995.

U.S. warns guerrillas

may strike in S. America

set up an independent com-mission to investigate the

Scientists from the Philippines National Bureau of Investigation agreed with Singaporean findings that Maga was strangled but said she suffered other injuries that suggested she might have been killed by a man.

Mr. Severino said the third party panel of U.S. experts concluded Maga died of strangulation and that stains in the skull and scapulae were caused by post-mortem discoloration and decomposi-

"The Philippine government is satisfied that the... (panel) bas answered all the questions that it was requested to consider by botb countries," Mr. Severino said in a statement. "The Pbilippine government accepts as final the findings...'

Mr. Severino said be boped the controversy would be put to rest.

think we should learn the lessons derived from this and leave the bitter feelings behind us. We bave to get on

Singapore Friday welcomed the U.S. panel's report upbolding the city state's

findings the murder case.
"The Third-Party Panel has unequivocally and unanimously upheld the findings of the Singapore pathologists,' the Singapore Foreign Ministry said in a press statement

Friday. "The Singapore government accepts the Third-Party Panel's findings, which have resolved with finality the differences in findings between the Singapore pathologists tie ties completely if it was found that Contemplacion on the cause of Della Maga's was unjustly hanged. He also death," it added.

Nigeria frees some coup

SUSPECTS
LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's military government has released several people wbo have faced a secret trial on charges of plotting a coup and has lifted a ban on a newspaper closed last year, newspapers reported Friday.

Thisday Daily said politi-cians Adisa Akinloye, Titi Ajanaku, Abba Muaza and some other detainees were released Thursday after they bad appeared before the tribunal trying more than 20 officers and civilians accused of plotting to topple military ruler General Sani Abacha in March.

The Nigerian Tribune newspaper said the fate of the others on trial might be announced at a news conference called by Defence head-

quarters for later Friday. Mr. Akinloye and Ms. Ajanako are political associates of former military ruler General Olusegun Obasanjo. General Shehu Musa Yar'adua are believed to be among the defendants in the secret trial which began in Lagos on June 5.

The authorities have been silent on the trial but local and foreign newspapers say some of the officers have been sentenced to death, Gen. Obasanjo has been given a 25-year jail term and Gen. Yar'adua a life sent-

Nigeria has been in crisis since a previous military ruler annulled a 1993 presidential election in 1993. The undeclared winner, Moshood Abiola, has been in detention since June 1994 on treason charges for proclaiming himself president. Gen. Abacha seized power in November

Fellow passenger: Simpson upset, agitated, but still gave autograph defence bid to present a theory that Nicole Brown headed for the door, Mr. Partridge said, "he turned

LOS ANGELES (AP) --Upset and agitated, O.J. Simpson sighed, asked for water and made phone calls seeking information about his ex-wife's death as he flew home from Chicago, a fellow passenger testified.

But even in his distress, witness Mark Partridge said Thursday, Simpson was the consummate celebrity, obliging a fan with an autograph on a cocktail napkin.

"I thought. 'what a nice man this was to be doing this,' baving beard what I'd heard about the tragedy that was affecting his life," Mr. Partridge testified, hours after the defence sustained a stinging defeat in a ruling by

the judge.
With the jury not present,
Judge Lance Ito rejected a

dered by drug hitmen out to kill her cocaine-abusing friend Faye Resniek because she owed them money. Mr. Partridge wrote an eight-page diary about the flight and gave it to attorneys for both sides, but not before

Simpson was mistakenly mur-

copyrighting the document. he acknowledged. Although Mr. Partridge, a trademark and patent lawyer, said Simpson confided in him and he was able to hear part of the ex-football star's many phone calls during the fourhour flight, the witness wasn't allowed to tell jurors

what Simpson said because it was ruled hearsay.

When the men arrived in Los Angeles and Simpson

back and what I could see him say was, 'thank you'." Simpson, who had pleaded innocent to the killing his

ex-wife and her friend Ronald Goldman on June 12. 1994, wiped tears from his eyes. Three of his attorneys patted him on the back. Several jurors stole glances in his direction. Mr. Partridge also seemed to choke up.

Both Mr. Partridge and Hertz Corp. executive Raymond Kilduff, who took Simpson to the airport in Chicago, described him as distraught and said they noticed a bleeding injury on the middle finger of his left hand. Simpson's lawyers say he cut his hand in his hotel room.

Exiles: Cuban patrol rammed U.S. protest boat

United States has received ment was not a travel advis-Cuban patrol boat and a vesinformation that "Middle ory telling Americans not to sel carrying exiles collided off go to the region. Eastern terrorists" may be the Havana coast as a flotilla Mr. Johnson said the planning to attack a U.S. target somewhere in South announcement bad been America this month, the made under a "no double State Department has standards' policy of making public intelligence informa-tion that could affect the safeannounced. The unusual public ty of U.S. citizens. announcement gave no further details, and spokesmen for The policy was introduced after the bombing of Pan Am the department said they Flight 103 over Lockerbie, could add little.

said. He said the announce-

Scotland, which killed 270 people in 1988. The U.S. government was criticised for having previously warned its diplomats, but not the general public, that a U.S. airliner could be threatened. More recently, Washington issued an alert through-

out the Far East after a bomb attack last December on a Philippine Airlines plane killed a Japanese national. The attack was blamed on Muslim guerrillas who had sneaked into the Philippines and were believed involved in a plot to kill Pope John Paul

during his trip to Manila and

to bomb several U.S. commercial aircraft. Philippine authorities have accused Ramzi Abmad Yousef, now facing trial in New York over a 1993 bomb attack on the World Trade Centre, of being behind the plot. U.S. officials could not say Thursday whether the during the remainder of the latest warning was linked month of July." Mr. Johnson with that case. MIAMI IAgencies) - A

of powerboats from Florida commemorated the sinking of a refugee boat last year. A Cuhan exile group in Miami said a Cuban gunboat rammed the motor vessel Democracia in Cuban territorial waters about 10 miles from shore, erippling the boat and injuring three peo-ple. The U.S. Coast Guard said it was sending rescue ships to the area in response. Cuba had said earlier

Thursday it would do whatev-

er was needed to keep the

flotilla of Cuban exile powerboats from entering its wa-About 100 members of the Florida exile community were aboard more than a dozen powerboats on the 80mile (128-km) vovage from

the Florida Keys to a site six miles (10-km) off Havana. Organisers said they planned a peaceful protest in Cuban territorial waters to mark the anniversary of the sinking of a refugee boat last July, a disaster that helped trigger a massive exodus of Cuban rafters.

Dramatic television video

showed the Cuhan patrol

boat and the exile vessel col-

liding. Witnesses said the

Cuban ship had pulled along-

side and then steered into the

"Democracia, On hoard was

a Dade County commissioncr. Pedro Reboredo, who was injured along with two others, the exile group said. "The Democracia was rammed by two Cuban gunboats." said Maggie Chuss. a spokeswoman for the exile group Brothers To The Res-

several people hurt, at least three. The boat is taking on waier. Cuhan Foreign Ministry spokesman Rafaci Dausa Thursday said protest organisers were trying to disrupt already difficult relations between Cuba and the United

States "Cuba has the right to take, and will take, every measure to prevent any intrusion into our waters." Mr. Dausa told Reuters. "This anti-Cuban adventure does not worry us.

The group had planned to lay wreaths in a tribute 10 those who died in the sinking of the tugboat, 13 De Marzo. last July 13. The tragedy. believed to have taken about 40 lives, has become a rallying cry for exile protests. The refugee flow that began in early summer became

ending up in refugee camps at the U.S. Navy hase at Guantanamo Bay. Cuba. In Washington, D.C., ab-

a flood by August. In all.

more than 37,000 Cubans

fled the island last year, most

front of the Cuhan diplomatic office Thursday, carrying white caskets representing the children who perished io the sioking. Ten demonstrators were arrested by the U.S. Secret Service, including Cuban writer Armando Valladares.

Although Cuha has denied cue. "I understand there is it, exiles claim the tugboat. stolen by a group of refugees trying to flee their Communist-ruled homeland. sank after being deliberately rammed and sprayed with high-pressure water hoses by Cuban pursuers. "It was a massacre," said

Humberto Sanchez, a flotilla In Havana, Cuha's Union of Young Communists (Union de Jovenes Communistas-UJC) had organised a sum-

ther testival to start Thursday

on the capital's Malecon scaf-

ront promenade, which looks out onto the waters of the Florida Straits. Police closed off large scctinns of the Malecon to traffic and appeared to have increased the number of offic-

ers on duty. Meanwhile, the U.S. government's first detailed reaction to Cuba's plans to finish building a Russian. technology nuclear plant just 144 kilometres from U.S. shores came Thursday as a surge of concern.

Russia has pledged \$30 million in aid to Cuba to help defray costs of maintaining the Juragua plant facility in Cientucgos province uotil construction, frozen in 1992 due to Havana's eash crunch. ean resume.

On Wednesday, Cuba reaffirmed its commitment to completing the nuclear resctor project, which Cuban President Fidel Castro is determined to get on line to help decrease Havana's costly dependence on oil to operare its power plants.

Cuban Deputy Industry Minister Rodrigo Ortiz pledged in an interview with the Communist Party newspaper Granma that the reactor would be huilt "in compliance with all safety stan. dards and with maximum transparency."

And Mr. Onitz said an economic and technical feasibility study on renewing construction would be finished in late July.

While the State Department in May voiced some safety concerns in passing about the reactor after Russian officials said a consortium of companies from Russia, Brazil. Britain, Germany and lialy was willing to help finish the project, the U.S. government never has opposed it publicly or offered help with any alternative

Bridge over the sea to Skye completed

tish ballad come true - with a giant new bridge "over the sea to Skye." The £30 million (\$48 million) bridge linking the western island, a favourite tourist destination, to the Scottish mainland has been dogged by controversy. with islanders fearing it will wipe out dozens of jobs on the ferry and complaining the tolls are too high. But Sir lain Noble, chairman of Skye Bridge Ltd that was lowering the last 80-tonne section into place Friday, defended the toll costs for the bridge and said people should start "blessing it rather than bashing it." The bridge is 570

believe it must be stated that Seoul mayor warns of more disasters

he said.

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verything's going Only time will tell

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e Michael FOW ony N (AFP) - Tm

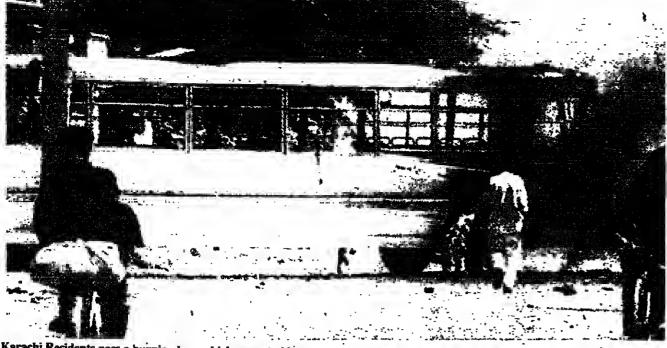
op singer George ettled his one- ar with the Japanes ord company in ontract with Vuga Thorn-EML = V2 esman announced ear-old pop singer sold millions el orldwide since stars a member of the group. declined W terms of his release y or the details of ontract with Virgin Silver, & Viiii an, did sa) the would be producing new aloum in time and that are r's contract covered world except Note where Michael na with Dreamwolk eamworks SKU !! ord label co-owner Hollywood figure ctor Steven Spice sic producer David

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ortish mainland ha ged by controles nders tearing it will dozens of John or and complaining in roo high. But Sir land chairman of the Bistoffice Section in riday, defended s for the bride sin ag it sather it.

The bridge it.



Karachi Residents pass a burning bus, which was set ablaze by a group of armed men in the troubled area of the strife-torn city as at least eight people were shot dead and

several others were injured during clashes by powerful ethnic-based Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) and the

Hundreds attend funeral of 5 killed in Karachi

KARACHI (AFP) — Hundreds of workers and supportes of a powerful ethnic group thronged Karachi's in-dustrial district Friday for the burial of five people killed in a gun hattle with security forces, residents said.

Officials said the five, members of the ethnic Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), had "forcibly occupied" a house belonging to the ruling Pakistan People's Party and turned the premises into a torture chamber. The militants opened fire

Thursday when police ordered them to vacate the house in suburban Korangi, officials said. Five militants and a policeman were killed in the exchange of gunfire.

In a statement from London, self-exiled MQM leader Altaf Hussain hlamed security forces for the killings.

Residents said hundreds of emotional MQM workers and supporters turned out for the funeral. Sporadic gunfire was heard in the area but no casualties were reported. Prime Minister Benazir

Bhutto's government has aimed at ending the violence blamed the MOM for much with the third round to comof the violence in Karachi, where some 2,000 people have died in political and religious troubles in the past 18 months.

MQM represents a large Urdu-speaking community which migrated here after the 1947 partition of the subcontinent. The group denies involvement in terrorism and accuses the government of victimising the settlers.

The group and the government are involved in talks movement.

capital of Tamil separatism.

mence here Sunday.

MQM has put forward 18 demands, including quotas for the community in government jobs and the police force and the withdrawal of criminal cases against MQM members.

The government proposed 21 counter demands, asking the MQM to close its "training camps in India" and to publicly denounce violence, officials said. The party denies foreign backing of its

Heavy battles rage in Sri Lanka, rebels down plane

COLOMBO (AFP) -Heavy gun-hattles raged in northern Sri Lanka Fridy as Tamil Tiger guerrillas shot down an aircraft and raided an army defence line, leaving up to 100 soldiers and rebels killed, officials said.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) scored a direct hit on a twin-engined Argentinean-huilt Puccara as it climbed after a bombing mission to support the man said adding that air opground troops resisting theoretations continued despite

Details were sketcby of the 10-hour close-quarter bandto-hand battle but defence officials said an almost equal number of Tigers and rehels may have been killed making up a total of "about 100. Another 42 soldiers were wounded in the pre-dawn attack and evacuated to a hospital in the north as airforce jets hombed the sus-

pected anti-aircraft gun posi-

tions of the rebels, military

spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said

He said the Puceara aircraft piloted by a single airman was supporting ground troops to beat off the simultaneous assault carried out by 500 to 600 LTTE fighters when he was hit by a surfaceto-air missile.

"The Puccara was carrying ou a steep climb after diving rehel, assault, the military the set back to the airforce. The wreckage fell behind

army lines in a 78-square kilometre (31-square-mile) area captured from the Tamil Tigers after Operation Leap Forward was launched Sunday inside the LTTEstronghold of the Jaffna peninsula.

Following Friday's Tiger penetration of the defences. the army strengthened its. bunkers just six kilometres away from the psychologically important Jaffna town, the

The Tiger newspaper, the Inside Report, warned that any attempt to invade Jaffna would be disastrous for the security forces and said the Tigers would not be subdued

from the government. "We wish to warn the government that the LTTE will not enter peace talks under such (military pressure) conditions," the Inside Report said adding that the Tigers were an "invincible force."

into accepting a political deal

Brig. Munasinghe said the attack had not altered their original objective of "liberatthe just over half a million minority Tamil population io the LTTE-beld Jaffna peninsula. The government has

aiready categorically ruled out any fresh negotiations with the LTTE after it pulled out of peace talks with Colombo on April 19 to resume its struggle for an independent homeland called Eelam. Tigers had offered little

resistance to the 10,000 strong military drive as they advanced in two columns towards Jaffna town from the Palaly military complex located at the northern tip of the embattled peninsula.

A recently retired army officer said the LTTE blasted a 30-metre bridge just outside Jaffna two days ago to slow down an onslaught on the heavily built up town. Already there are reports of heavy civilian casualties.

A Christian priest who left Jaffna Tuesday and arrived here Thursday said most of the civilians left the battle zone and only a hand full of elderly people remained to take advantage of the government's rehabilitation pack-

Travellers also report that at least 145 people were killed and another 350 wounded to the fighting while an estimated 300,000 men, women and children had been left homeless.

Irish premier holds surprise talks with Adams, Hume

DUBLIN (R) — Irish Prime Minister Jonn Brutnn had unscheduled talks Friday with Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams and moderate nationalist John Hume to try to break a deadlock in Northern Ireland's peace process.

Irish officials said Foreign Minister Dick Spring. another key player in moves to forge a tasting set-tlement for the British province, discussed the stale-

The peace process is stalled over British demands that Sinn_Fein get the Irish Republican Army (IRA), which declared a ceasefire 10 months ago after 25 years of hattle, to decommission its arsenals before it can join ' all-party talks.

Mr. Adams earlier accused Britain of creating a wave of street protests in Northern Ireland by refusing to negotiate with his party until its IRA guerrilla hackers surrendered their arms.

Against a hackground of nightly violence after IO months of peace, the Sinn Fein president said in an article in the Irish Times that Britain's intransigence over IRA arms was dangerous.

"It is, in fact, forcing politics hack on to the street," said Mr. Adams, whose party - the IRA's political wing seeks to end British rule of Northern Ireland.

Catholic areas of Belfast during the night, the latest incident in a wave of unrest that erupted after Britain released a soldier who was iailed for life for shooting dead a Catholic teenager

Firebombs were thrown in

while on patrol. No shots have been fired in the province since last year's ceasefires by the IRA and its pro-British "loyalist" foes, but the demonstrations have worrying echoes of the start of Northern Ireland's "Trou-

bles" in 1969. Civil unrest by the Catholic minority and Protestant majority deteriorated into a guerrilla war which killed 3,200 and turned the province into a fortress until the ceasefires.

Mr. Adams demanded that Sinn Fein, which is supported hy Irish nationalists and Catholics, he invited immediately to all-party talks to find a lasting solution to the conflict.

"A peace process, to bring about a peace settlement, requires peace talks. This is the next essential step.

He accused the British government of creating obstacles to a lasting Northern Ireland peace by insisting that its IRA guerrilla supporters start decommissioning their arsenals to win a place for Sinn Fein at peace talks.

Japan campaign brings out the beast in Kaifu

HAMAMATSU, Japan (R) Japan's nice-guy fnrmer Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu swapped his smile for a snare Friday to fight for his candidate in a ruling-party stronghold on Japan's Pacific sea-

board. Mr. Kaifu took his New Frontier Party's (NFP) calls for drastic reform to Shizuoka prefecture, a district 200 kilometres west of Tokyo, where the conservative culture of tea and fruit farmers clashes with high-

technology manufacturers. The NFP president, one of Japan's most popular prime ministers during his 1989 to 1991 term, had logged over 7,300 kilometres as of Friday in a gruelling campaign for July 23 elections, the first nationwide poll since 1993.

The elections to fill half the 252 seats of the Upper House of parliament "poses the question of whether Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's government should be allowed to continue." Mr. Kaifu told repor-

"Every step we take is with

the aim of putting an end to the Murayama administration," he said.

Mr. Kaifu, dubbed "Mr. Clean" for a Quixotic reform programme he began in the dirtiest days of Japanese politics, has a potent mixture of policy, party and personal reasons to take aim at the current government.

The Socialist Murayama heads a coalition government with the long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP);, the party that first elevated from obscurity and then dumped Mr. Kaifu as prime minister in 1991 at the height of his popularity.

Those two largest members of Mr. Murayama's coalition. Mr. Kaifu reminded Shizuoka voters, for decades fought pitched battles for their vote before joining hands in June; 1994, in an

awkward left-right alliance. "They overcome their fundamental policy differences through easy compromises and can't achieve significant reform because they spend all their energy just staying in power," Mr. Kaifu said.

The aggressive tone of the 63-year-old Kaifu, dropped as prime minister by the LDP because he pushed too hardfor reform of Japan's scandalridden politics, surprised listeners who had thought of him as clean and likable but ineffectual.

"I'm encouraged because he really seems to be determined to make things hapsaid husinessman Yoshihiko Hakamata, one of 1.000 people who stopped to hear Mr. Kaifu on the stump.

Earlier in the week, a senior NFP official told the nerws media he thought his party lacked the will and energy to do its opposition duty and topple the unpopular Murayama government.

The NFP, formed last December from nine smaller parties, has had to fight to keep together its unwieldy group of Buddhists, conservatives, trade unionists and young reformists.

But Mr. Kaifu, lobhying

for local candidate Masataka

Suzuki against incumbents

from the LDP and the Socialists, proffered a list of plans to cut Japan's bloated bureaucracy and tame the red tape that strangles entreneurs.

The deregulation message plays well in Shizuoka, where world-class electronics component and musical instrument industries are getting crushed by the yen's appre-

Mr. Kaifu's personal endrosement of Suzuzki, a former military bureaucrat and security expert, coincided conveniently with a ruling coalition rift that emerged Friday over the Socialists' call for deep cuts in defence spending.

NFP criticisms of Mr. Murayama's spotty record in crisis management also addressed deeper fears in Shizukoa, and earthquakeprone district that is also home to the national headquarters of Aum Shinri Kyo, the doomsday cult accused of gassing Tokyo subways last

for parliamentary elections his illness. Some opposition figures have used his health

Yeltsin sets Dec. 17 date

MOSCOW (R) - President Boris Yeltsin Friday set Dec. 17 as the date for new elections to Russia's lower house of parliament, removing lingering doubts that they could be postponed.

Mr. Yeltsin, 64, gave the firm date for State Duma elections in a decree apparently issued from the Moscow hospital where he has been recovering from a heart problem since Tuesday.

Opposition parties, some of whose leaders had alleged that Mr. Yeltsin secretly planned to put off the election, welcomed the announcement and began girding themselves for the contest. Passions will now subside

about whether the elections are to be held or not and that is the most important thing. Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin told reporters. The last election to the

Duma was held on Dec. 12, 1993, when the 450 deputies were elected for only a twoyear term following the dissolution of the previous par-liament by Mr. Yeltsin. Under election law, Mr.

Yeltsin could have left declaring the December State Duma poll date until mid-August.

His early announcement served to demonstrate he was still firmly in control despite chances of extremist parties

problems to renew charges that he is not physically fit. The decree, however,

failed to clear up how and when the smaller Federation Council (upper house) would be elected The Duma wants the upper

chamber to be elected by popular vote as it was in 1993. But the Federation Council itself and some Kremlin officials want a House composed of regional delegates appointed by the Kremlin and regional bodies without election. The Duma elected in De-

cember will serve for a full four-year term, unlike the present transitional one. Real power lies in the hands of the president. But Mr. Yeltsin, whose term expires in June 1996, will all the same be hoping the elections will produce a less hostile

Duma than the current one. Bristling with Communists, Agrarians and ultranationalists, it has criticised Mr. Yeltsin and the government of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin relentlessly over economic policy and the Chechenya conflict.

But Mr. Yeltsin failed last month in an attempt to modify a key election law that would have lessened the such as the Liberal Democratic Party (LDPR) of Vladimir Zhirinovsky making big gains

Many opposition figures had said that Mr. Yeltsin was secretly harbouring plans to put back the elections hecause he was afraid parties unfavourable to his policies would be brought to power.

Mr. Zhirinovsky Friday welcomed news that Mr. Yeltsin had fixed a firm date for elections. In typically flamboyant style, he said: "We hope for an even bigger representation in the Duma and not less than 100 seats. The LDPR at present holds 50 seats

Liberal Yeggr Gaidar, who heads the Russia's Choice faction, was pleased by the early poll announcement. "I have always said the earlier it is fixed, the simpler it will be to organise

Mikahil Lapshin, bead of the Agrarian Party faction which also holds 50 seats, said: "It is very good that it was not announced in August. Now we have five months to prepare ourselves.

Yeltsin postpones Norway visit

President Yeltsin, recuperating in hospital after a heart problem, Friday postponed plans to visit Norway next

The decision, announced by an aide and confirmed by Norway's Foreign Ministry, looked set to renew speculation over the seriousness of the illness which forced the 64-year-old Kremlin chief to be admitted to hospital Tues-

Russian President Boris Yeltsin is postponing his visit to Norway, scheduled for July 19-21," Viktor Ilyushin, Mr. Yeltsin's most senior adviser, told ITAR-TASS news agency. He gave no reasons.

In Osio, Norwegian Foreign Ministry spokesman Kaare Eltervaag said: "The Russians have told us informally that the visit is postponed. We have been given no new date, nor have they given us any reason (for postponing the visit!."

Kremlin officials had said Thursday that Mr. Yeltsin was expected to leave hospital Monday and still intended to visit Norway.

Mr. Yeltsin's press secret-ary Sergei Medvedev could not immediately be reached to explain why the president had changed his mind.

Mr. Yeltsin was taken to hospital with an ischaemic heart condition - a blood supply problem - but reports from his aides have indicated he is recovering.

Chechen peace talks postponed for a day

MOSCOW (R) — Peace talks due to resume in Chechenya's capital Grozny Friday have been postponed for the day, chief mediator Sandor Meszaros said.

ITAR-TASS news agency quoted Mr. Meszaros, head of an Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe delegation which is hosting the talks, as saying negotiations would not resume Friday. He gave no reason for the delay and did not say when they would he

resumed.

Russian News Agency(RIA) said rebel negotiators. who went into Chechenya's southern mountains to consult separatist .leader Dzhokhar Dudayev on a draft final document, did not show up for the talks which were scheduled to resume in Grozny at 4 p.m. (1200 GMT).

Peace talks had been due to restart in the afternoon after a day's break, in which rebel negotiators went to consult their leaders and Moscow's delegates considered their views on a draft final document. RIA said chief Chechen

negotiator Usman, Imayev

had gone into the mountains to talk over the draft with rebel commanders.

The agency gave no reason

for the delay in the peace talks, which started last month in earnest after a Chechen hostage-taking raid on a southern Russian town. Negotiators from both

sides have sent conflicting signals since Monday on hopes of resolving political disputes, the most difficult of which is breakaway Chechenya's constitutional

Russian Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov, who is taking part in the talks, told RIA Thursday he believed Mr. Imayev had gone into the mountains to try to convince rebel commanders to accept Moscow's conditions Mr. Kulikov's said failure to reach agreement would result in Russia resuming efforts to wipe out rebel re-

"We can give no more ground," RIA quoted Mr. " Kulikov as saying. "And if Imavev brings a negative answer, this will mean a return to actions forcibly to disarm the illegal formations.

The negotiators have sent conflicting signals since saying they had found. ... enough common ground Monday to raise hopes of resolving outstanding politic

Burma dissident willing to meet with junta

RANGOON (AFP) -Suu Kyi said Friday that she was willing to negotiate with Burma's ruling junta, but appealed to the world cominto the country with development aid. There is no way we can

we talk with each other." she told a packed news conference at her lakeside home. adding that any contacts with the junta "would come firstly in the form of dialogue." But she also urged nations and world institutions not to

achieve reconciliation unless

rush in and offer Burma development aid before assessing the country's political situation.

"It is too soon to rush into anything," she said, adding that potential donors "should wait and see whether there is a genuine move towards reconciliation and a democratic

system of government."
"I have been released. That is all. Nothing else has changed," she said. Ms. Suu Kyi said that while she was willing to meet with

the junta, any contact could only occur following discussions with her colleagues in the National League for Democracy (NLD), who she has met daily since her release from house arrest. "We bave every intention of asking the SLORC for a

meeting, but only after we have decided how we wish to proceed," she said, referring to the State Law and Order Restoration Council, as the junta is officially known.

She said earlier this week that she would he willing to compromise and that all sides had to be flexible if they were to hring democracy to Bur-ma. But she added that she has not had any contact with the SLORC since her release. Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi said

that she and her NLD colleagues had not yet discussed whether they would make the further release of political prisoners a pre-condition for talks with the SLORC. Ms. Suu Kyi added that the SLORC, which seized power

in 1988, has recently negoti-

ated ceasefire agreements

with most of the armed ethnic

groups that have been fight-

ing Rangoon for more auton-

omy since independence in

"But a ceasefire is not a permanent peace," she ated that she still had reserva-



Burmese leading opposition politician Aung San Sun Kvi shares a laughter with Kyi Maung (left), acting bead of the opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) which she cofounded, as they confer at her bouse after Ms.

Suu Kyi was released from her house arrest. Kyi Maung, a close friend of Ms. Sun Kyi, acted as the leader of NLD after she was placed under house arrest nearly six years ago (AFP

added. "What we want is permanent peace.

She declined to discuss here meetings last year with SLORC leaders Gen. Than. Shwe and Gen. Khin Nyunt. saying they had agreed at her request not to make public. any details to avoid misunderstandings.

But she said she found Gen. Khin Nyunt to be polite and "quite charming," and that Gen. Than Shwe was 'straightforward.' Ms. Suu Kyi has been meeting at length with other

NLD leaders since her re-

lease Monday from six years of house arrest. She declined to give details of their discus-Ms. Suu Kyi co-founded the NLD in 1989 and campaigned widely for the party ahead of elections that the

NLD swept in April 1990. The SLORC subsequently ignored the poll results and refused to relinquish power. Instead it clamped down on the opposition, arresting top NLD leaders and forcing others to flee 10 the jungle or across the border into Thai-

Now, she said, the NLD was not trying to rebuild the

party the way it was. 'We don't want the NLD to be just exactly the way it was in 1989, we want it to be what the NLD ought to be in 1995," she said without elaborating.

Asked about the national convention drafting Burma's new constitution, she reitertions about it. There have to be lots of changes" for the benefit of the people, she said. "We would hope that these changes can be negotiated. It should guarantee democracy

for Burma." Ms. Suu Kyi said she did not rule out a transitional government in which the Burmese military shared political power with civilians, in an interview in the New York Times Friday.

The 50-year-old opposition leader said power-sharing was "something we must look

ters in the democracy move-"I'm aware that this is what they have done in South Africa, where they have agreed to a transitional period," Ms. Suu Kyi said referring to the power sharing arrangement

She said she would discuss

the proposal with her suppor-

last year's elections. "And I think it's been far more successful that some people had thought," she

reached between black and

white South Africans prior to

Asked whether a civilian government should seek retribution against military officers involved in human rights abuses, the opposition leader said: "There's nothing good about vengeance - it's

most ignoble feeling." She said it was an issue she bad thought "very deeply" about, adding, "we would try to make some sort of distinc-

tion between the person and 🚓 the deed, because all of us have weaknesses.

'I don't think it's 'a

vengeance that people should ... want," Ms. Suu Kvi said, "I think what they should work for is the truth." In another interview publisbed Friday in London's Daily Telegraph, the opposi-

tion leader said she hore no

ill-will towards the military regime that held her under house arrest. "I truly feel no ill-will towards my captors. This is not just something I'm saying to be tactful or diplomatic. I

myself sometimes wonder why that is." She said she had concluded it was partly because she associated the Burmese army with her father. Aung San, who secured Burma's independence from Britain.

"Most of my photos show my father in uniform so I grew up thinking of the army as part of the family."

Ms. Suu Kyi also said the conditions of her detention

were quite tolerable. "I have to confess that I really did not find it very difficult to be on my own. Of course, I missed my family and my colleagues, but I tried not to think about that. I knew there were people suf-

fering much more than me." She added, "I had my radio and my books. I know my colleagues in prison had neither and were going through a much more diffi-

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Repes rekindled

THE VISIT of President Ali Abdullah Solida exemplifies the excellent relaficuship between the Yemeni and crachian leaderships and peoples. accord of the two countries relain a firoughout the past decade offers and ideal model of dependable and ties. The warm, stable and principled personal relations between His Majesty King Hussein and Presiient Saleh withstood many challenges. indenian-Yemeni relationships recordial, solid and constructive times. This is the kind of rab relations that we would like 13 022 developing between all the Arab minus without exception.

47 Arab monarchs and presidents the need to forge firm Arab realionships but not much of that talk has ever been translated in itseds. Contacts between the Arab to unuries remain strained and several maiellations of Arab "leagues" have carlaced to give expression to this porary quintessentialism of and its people re-: isolated and under siege not only in the outside world but also by the Nation itself as if the Iragis were an integral part of the Arab

-_ a time when we are seeking to in makise relations with Israel and one our gates to its people for trade man remain sealed with Baghdad. Time years after the Gulf crisis anumed. fall-outs of that dark episode relation to strain inter-Arab rela-But with the good offices of Miles like President Saleh and the of King Hussein and King Tallil of Saudi Arabia we hope that cram we will see Arab relations resacted to their pre-Gulf crisis norm.

LEIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

UTAN AL HATTAB, a writer in Al Ra'i, condemned arries is repeated incursions into Iraq under the pretext of lighting the Kurdish rebels. It is not possible for Turkey to the Kurdish population from their lands and stifle are related their resistance and the rebellion in Kurdistan with one, two or tens of military offensives against the necrossed population, said the writer. Indeed, the Turks and unable to repress the Kurds who are fighting Ankara only in northern Iraq but in eastern Turkey and in include cities and streets, and it is not the right of Turkey to annihilate the Kurds because they are fighting for ::: freedom, said the writer. Criticising the United States .ಇರ (ee United Nations for condoning Turkey's invasion of territory, the writer said that when Iraq invaded ne against Turkey's repeated invasions of Iraq not because it is an ally of the United States and the 17. (7.) alliance but because Turkey's invasion serves the purpose of the Western alliance, said the writer. As long as the Arab World is keeping silent about repeated Turkish invarious of northern Iraq and as long as the Arab states remain hostage to the will and orders of the United States. marked the writer, one could soon witness Turkey's troops sattling permanently in northern I raq under the pretext of mediang the alleged Kurdish raids on Turkish territory.

ANOTHER COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i, daily said it seems that the United States is determined to keep the sanctions claimed on the Itaqi people whether they destroyed their mass destruction weapons or not. By repeatedly deciding to mantain the embatgo on Iraq, the United Nations, which supposed to come to the help of the repressed nations and people is a party to the murder of a whole nation, said sinhmoud Rimawi. Since Baghdad has implemented the resolutions, pulled out its forces from Kuwait, regnised the international boundaries with the Gulf slate expressed the desire to fully cooperate with the world community, there can be no teason for maintaining the senctions on the Iraqi people, said the writet.

Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Keilani

Democracy digging deeper roots

THE MUNICIPAL elections that Jordan held last week were another landmark in the democratisation and political pluralism in the Kingdom. Granted there were a few nuances, but in general the conduct of the elections and the way the government went around organised them showed that Jordan is a fast learner and a bright student of political evolution.

It was indeed another feather in the cap of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, who also oversaw the Kingdom's first general elections in 1989 after a hiatus of more than three decades. It is highly noteworthy that it was mostly apolitical

candidates who won the majority of sears in the municipal efections, and it would be naive to characterise them as anything but ordinary Jordanians from the heart of the Kingdom who will, hopefully, strive to serve their communities.

At least six political parties ran publicly announced candidates while other parties chose to keep the identities of their nominees secret. The final results, however, showed that candidates of political parties had won only a negligible share of the seats. This indicates that Jordanians are shying away from embracing political parties, as the main vehicle in their mainstream life regardless of their political ideologies. This is not surprising also, because less than two per cent of the electorate are registered members of political parties although the new Political Parties Law was enacted almost

It was regrettable that the Islamic Action Front (IAF). the best organised political party in Jordan, chose to withdraw from the municipal races in its strongholds of Zarga and Russeifa. An IAF victory in those two municipalities would not have posed a challenge for anyone. If anything, the track record of the previous IAFdominated council in Zarqa stands far above others in Jordan in terms of services to the community. It was under this council that Zarqa had its first university, three community colleges, 12 schools and dozens of Zakat committees which served the poor among Zarqa residents. Furthermore, it was under the IAF-led council that Zarqa Municipality settled its public debts. In fact, the Zarqa council under the IAF set a model for most other municipalities in Jordan. For sure, we can expect to see a similar record in Madaba and Karak where the IAF won this

An additional 10 IAF members joining the 3,000-plus municipal officials throughout the Kingdom would not have upset the overall balance in local administrative

The arrest of drivers who were apparently taking IAF voters to polling centres on charges of silly traffic violations in Zarga was rather uncalled for. Such actions obviously alienated the IAF, which, already unhappy with what it saw as other moves aimed at undermining its chances in the elections. registered a strong protest by

hoycotting Wednesday's session of the Lower House of

Alienating the well organised political party in the Kingdom, regardless of its betiefs and ideology, does not go well with the democratisation process. The IAF is very much part and parcel of our political life. tAF leaders and supporters are very much from antong us, and there is no reason for them to feel alienated from mainstream life. Such alienation would only mar prospects for a harmonious relationship between political parties and the regime.

That was perhaps the only blemish in the nationwide municipal elections apart from what was unmistakably voter apathy. On the second count, the government did its best to attract voters to the polling booths, but it cannot do anything beyond reminding voters of their duty towards themselves and towards the community that they belong to. It is here that one would have expected the political parties to play a key and influential role by convincing the voters to leave their homes and spend a couple of hours on a public holiday to vote for who could serve their community best.

Effectively, the tow turnout on Tuesday and Wednesday meant that Jordanians need more orientation on their rights and responsibilities as well as a conviction that it is largely up to them to decide the level and quality of services for their communities because they have the power to elect the candidates they feel are best suited to serve them. Complaining that previous councils did not serve the communities well is not an answer or justification for staying away from the elections. If anything, such a complaint should be much more the key reason for the voters to seek to rectify the situation.



Egyptians look out for possible vice-president

By Jonathan Wright Reuler

CAIRO — Vice-president or no vice-president? What is the question many Egyptians are asking in the wake of the Muslim militant attempt to assassinate President Hosni Mubarak in Addis Ababa last month.

When Mr. Mubarak told members of the armed forces this week that the days of one-man rule were over, it might have been a sign that a deputy was finally on the way, after 13 years without Not so, one government

source said on Thursday. "He mean! that there is the constitution and there are institutions and there is no need to worry," he said. But worry is just what some foreign governments did in the three hours between the time gunmen opened fire at Mt. Muhatak's motorcade on June 26 and the time he appeared

sound back in Cairo. My government was seriously concerned. They keps ringing up the embassy for confirmation he was alive and well," said a diplomat from a Middle East state which sees stability in Egypt as important to the future of the Middle East

on television, safe and

peace process.
"None of us have the faintest idea how long it would take a successor to

find his feet." he added. The Egyptian constitution does lay down procedures in case the president is killed or incapacitated. The speaker of parlia-

ment would take over as acting head of state for up to 60 days and during that time he would have parliament nominate and vote on a successor. As in presidential elections, the choice then goes to a public re-ferendum.

In the last two cases, when Gamal Abdul Nasser died in 1970 and Anwar 1981, a vice president was transition went smoothly. Nasser often had up to

diree vice presidents, mostly glorified protocol officers, and Sadat groomed Mr. Mubarak as his successor for the six years from 1975

But Mr. Mubatak has chosen not to name a deputv throughout his 13 years in office, apparently because he has not found anvone he thinks wholly fit for

After the referendum that confirmed him for a third six-year term in office

in 1993, Mr. Mubarak told a Western newspaper that if he named a vice-president people would assume he had appointed a successor. He told an Arabic paper that he feared the country would split in two if he

appointed a deputy. The government source suggested the president was holding his cards close to his chest hut speculated that he probably would not choose now to act.

"It's entirely up to the president. He can name one or more vice presidents but Egypt is not a monarchy and we don't want a crown prince. Look at what happened in Qatar," he added. The old crown prince of Oatar, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, deposed his father last month.

Although republie in form, the Egyptian state retains some features of the country's Pharaonic past, like awe in the face of authority and a bureaucratic approach to policy making.

Once the leader has anointed a successor, it becomes almost impossible to unscat him.

And, given the government's failute to let civilian politicians cultivate mass followings, the most likely successor to Mr. Muharak will again be from the

armed forces, like Nasser Sudat and Mr. Mubarak himself.

A pseudonymous article the Washington-based Middle East Journal said the most ohvious military successor. Defence Minister Mohammad Husscin Tantawi, was by no means a sure bet.

"The existence of competitive patronige networks within the officer corps... as well as Tantawi's limited popularity, have placed the higher circles of the general officer corps in a state of uncase," added the article, apparently by someone with access to the Egyptian political clite and with detailed knowledge of the

military. "In the event of death. of the president, factionalism within the high command could be a serious problem... for the vital questions of presidential succession to be so relatively open, and the military backstop even to be in question, suggests the polilical fragility of the sys-tem," if added.

But the government soutce dismissed speculation that a succession could the nation is that things take place very smoothly."

THE WEEK IN PRINT

New councils should serve communities

By Elia Nasrallah

THE LOCAL Arabic daily last week tackled the municipal elections, other domestic affairs, the situation in Iraq and Arab affairs as well as the Middle East question in light of Israeli practices

Congratulating the win-ners in the municipal elections in the past week, Al Aswaq daily said that now that they assumed new positions, the municipal council members and the mayors should realise the heavy responsibility they shoulder towards their local communities. Since the first moment the elected council members will be the focus of attention of people who expect from them diligence and dedication in serving the local residents and in living up to expectations, said the daily. The paper said that the new conncils are expected to help contribute to the success of the democratic process in Jor-

Taher Al Adwan con-gratulated Iman Fteimat, the first woman mayor to be elected in Jordan, saving that her success reflects the Jordanian people's maturity and their determination to choose the best and more eligible people for shouldering the responsibil-ity of municipal services. But the writer said that it is to be regretted that elections are still influenced by clans and families in Jordan, something which could adversely affect the behaviour of some members of the municipal councils who tend to favour their own relatives in the course of their work. The writer said that to overcome this predicament, the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs ought to merge small towns councils and widen the base of the electorate so as the public will have a wider choice of candidates and so that the best can only be chosen.

With the exception of the deputies of the Amman districts, most of Parliament members in various governorales were involved sults of the Tawjihi exone way or another in the Bassam Haddadin, a writer in Al Dustour. He said that this indicates that the municipal elections were politicised and the deputies hoped that their involvement in the local elections will boost their image and give them advantage in the coming parliamentary elections. The writer expressed the view that the political parties in Jordan have had little effect on the outcome of the municipal elections which were, to a large extent, dominated by tribal and families influence.

A columnist in Al Dustour supported the view of the government by saying that the municipal elections were fair and free without any intervention on the part of the government. The fact that some political groups did not achieve success in certain districts does not mean that the government had had its influence or intervened in a manner of serve these groups defeat but clearly indicates that the success came to many candidates as a result of tribal and family support.

argued Mohammad Daoud.
The writer said that a study of the list of the candidates can clearly realises that most of the candidates had relied on the support of their families and their clans, especially in areas outside the capital.

A writer in Al Dustour said that most of the candidates who won the seats in the municipal councils did so depending on the support they received from their relatives and clans and family members and therefore candidates with not tribal clout had poor chance of succeding though they could be far better qualified for the post. Mohammad Kawash said that in light of the circumstances, one can say that the elections were undemocratic because the voters were bound by family considerations to choose what they are told and not basing their decisions on reason. The writer said that the best way to deal with this predicament is to allow only half of the municipal cuuncil to be elected by the local residents leaving the

other half to be appointed by the government which was quite successful in choosing former committees to handle the affairs of the local councils in the past

A writer in Al Ra'i daily demanded that the government should try its best to rid the Kingdom of the guest workers and open the way for Jordanians to take up their place. Saying that the guest workers' jobs can be filled by the Jordanian job seekers in bakeries, restaurants and many other places. Tareq Masarweh said that the government must have realised by now this fact and also that the non-Jordanians, like those who wash cars in the streets, deprive the car wash stations of their income and that the service they claim they are doing is not up to the required standard in most of the jobs they fill. He said Japan. which needs workers for its industry, is resorting to robots to carry out the work while Israel's factories have related very limited numbers of Romanian and Bulgarian workers for a limited period of time but will get rid of them.

> Fahd Al Fanck, a writer in Al Ra'i urged Parliament to speed up its review and endorsement of a package of tax laws so that they would be ready before the coming Amman summit in October. Blaming the government for delaying pre-sentation of these daft laws to Parliament, the writer said that the Ministry of Finance should see to it that the law is ready before October when they will be discussed by the economic summit in Amman which is designed to help Jordan attract investments. The writer said that Jordan cannot face the world in October with the present obsolete laws and the government will have only itself to blame should Parliament fail to endorse the new laws

Commenting on the announcement of the reaminations, a writer in Al Dustour said that the school graduates and their parents are no doubt facing the question of what to do and what to study at the universities if their grades permit them. Mohammad Sqour said that apart from the financial concerns, the parents and their children will no doubt be at a loss as to what to study in college and to what would best meet the requirements of the local labour market. The writer called on the concerned authorities to try to steer the students towards what is more beneficial for the country and what would help the students find jobs after graduation. He said that the parents ought to refrain from forcing their children to take up university studies if the children do not feel they are inclined to do so and more importantly not to choose courses for which there is no demand in the labour market should they decide to continue their higher studies.

Commenting on the Turkish incursion into nortbern Iraq. Ma'an Biari, a writer in Al Ra'i, said that the Turkish raids are not only a flagrant violation of Iraq's sovereignty, but they also reflect that the fact the Turkish military has failed so far to crush the Kurdish rebellion. The writer said that the repeated incursions into Iraqi territory cannot end the rebellion; nor can it stifle the Kurds' voice demanding justice and legitimate rights. The writer said that claims on the part of the Western powers about support for people's human rights are forgotten in the case of Turkey as it represses the Kurdish population seeking basic human rights.

A writer in Al Ra'i said that the Western powers decision to maintain the cmbargo on Iraq is not justified by any standard as it is causing severe pain to the Iraqis and slarving the country's population for no reason. Samir Qitami said that the Iraqi government has cooperated fully with the United Nations, destroyed the mass destruction weapons and showed total commitment to U.N. re-

h Virginia Buci ONE OF the latest ! pos in Jaraan atent village of L But that was not 900 when the First Dana, consisting ida Mouasher. Smith Gate: Saift.

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One of the houses in Dana before it was renovated



A JEWEL OF THE KINGDOM: The village of Dana (photos by Ranuf Dabbas)

Ending Dana's centuries of oblivion — and none too soon

By Virginia Buchanan

ONE OF the latest fascinations io Jordan is the ancient village of Dana. But that was not so in 1990 when the "Friends of Dana," consisting of Majida Mooasher, Maria Shtieh, Gabai Saifi, Rabiha Ayyoub, Nihaya Saifi, Gulo Sati, Nadia Nabulsi, Nnhad Jnmei'an, Mnna Zawaydeb, Iman Shukri and Dumia Sattaf —
adopted the village.
Long lost in history,

Dana has been sunning itself in various guises through the millenniums, on the jutting edge of one of the most scenic and isolated gorges in the Middle East — Wadi Dana. Becanse it lies about 60 kilometres north of Petra in the Sharah mountains, off the beaten track and ont of sight in rugged country, relatively few seen, or heard, of it.

However, Dana's centuries of oblivion were numbered, and none to soon, for it was literarelly falling apart. The stone houses. built and rebuilt on foundations constructed back through Islamic, Byzantine, Roman, Greek and Edomite eras, had crumbled in or tumbled out with age. Alleys were blocked by piles of stone and debris. Water was cut off. The pristine springs that had given life to this desert oasis, and the channels carrying their water to the hillside fields and terraced gardens, were clogged by dense brambles. Fruit trees were drying up, while water wasted down inclines, ruining other crops by over-soaking. The wildlife and flora of Wadi Dana canyon below were becoming endagered from over-

Nomerous villagers had already moved out, deserting the village that had seemed to desert them, and began creating a new one, Qadisiyeh, op on the plateau where they could start over.

Aged Dana was breathing its last.

In November 1990, during the turmoil leading to the Gulf war, when people in neighbouring countries were in desperate need, Majida Mouasher, Maria Shtieh, and Gabi Saifi first met while working in Amman with various relief organisations to help them. Jordan was reeling from the arrival of masses of refugees, compounded by political and financial cutoffs. The three women, discovering that they had simi-lar ideals and enjoyed working together, felt inspired to do something special, oo their own, for Jor-dan. "Something big, worthwhile and longlasting - tike adopting a whole village."

"Maybe that was being too ambitious," says Majida, "but when you believe

in something, it has to hap-When she mentioned their dreams to her uncle, Anis Mouasher, he suggested the little-known village of Dana. An avid explorer of Jordan's wilderness, he had first glimpsed Dana in 1952, and years later was instrumental, as president and founder of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), in preserving 228 square kilometres of the Wadi Dana area as a nature reserve. Building nature reserves, however, means limiting the local inhabitants' income and preventing some of their activities.
The idea behind the Dana project was not only

to establish and develop the reserve, but to promote cooservation, make it popular locally and nationally, and to integrate it with the economic development of local resources to benefit those in and around the reserve so that each facet compliments the other.

Dana, bordering the reserve, was one of the last living intact and unspoiled traditional villages left in Jordan. With its rich heritage and soperb seenic value, the village had strong potential for tourism — if it could be rescued whose still alive. That where the Friends of Dana came in. The village was the people's greatest resource.

"We hesitated," says. one, "afraid that would be too much for us, but we at least drove down for a look. And instantly fell in love — as everyone does not only with the village, but with the whole stunning scenic area around it."

Dana's plight affected them deeply. They couldn't sleep that night, knowing that only 21/2 hours from Amman people were living without even the basic services of civilisation, - no adequiate roads, no shelter, no sanitation or nearby water - and scant income. The women felt they should be more responsible to their own people. If they adopted the village and helped build new roofs over head, the villagers would have more incentive to stay in Dana and keep the labyrinth of dwellings a bve model of an 18th centory Jordanian village. While preserving this jewel of the Kingdom the villagers could become selfsufficient by selling local produce and native hand"Yes! we accept the chal-

The womeo thought of other friends who could work with them. By December, 1990, 11 dedicated members organised, naming, themselves the "Friends of Dana." No officers, no letterheads, no salaries, no rent. Monthly dues were donated to the 'kitty.' What had to be bought or hired would be paid from either the kitty, their own pockets, or fundraising.

To practise fund-raising, they started with small private functions in their homes, then with growing. confidence went on to mote public events — a children's Easter egg hunt at a country stable took immense effort (not to mention colouring 310 eggs and baking 20 cakes), but was an exhibarating success.

"Since then we must have used every legal way to raise fund," says Gabi, speaking for them all. "We have sponsored concerts, famous singers, fashion sbows. Christmas bazaars, dinners asnd bake sales. We've sold tickets to countless events. We've sold thousands of T-shirts. And thousands of calendars to iodividuals and in bulk to businesses to use as gifts for special occasions. We think

money all the time." Meanwhile, back at the village, the Friends of Dana had launched phase one: "Restore 20 houses." They made a survey of the 300 remaining villagers to determine the neediest. First was an elderly widow. Tamam, bving alone in a dilapidated house. Consulting with architect Ammar Khammash, the Frieods of Dana bought paint, plaster and cement, employed a contractor and an eogineer to hire and supervise. He was to bire local villagers only and pay the going wage. He did, and the res-

toration was on its way. At times the labourers' pay exceeded the actual work accomplished, but it was mooey well-spent, getting them involved in earning and learning as they worked on their own bouses. They had to dismantle some dwellings completely, stone by stone, and rebuild them. They smoothed and plastered walls. They laid new reeds over the old juniper log beams and covered them. with repaired roofing. They put in new floors and payed

the pathways with stone. The Friends wanted to raise the people's standard of living, yet keep within local customs, but it didn't always work out as they expected. The villagers used their houses for sleeping and for sbelter from the sun, wind, snow and rain. Otherwise they lived outside. Tamam's house lacked windows and she didn't want any, preferring her privacy, as did her neighbours.

By phase two: "20 more houses and more fundraising," the people bad changed their minds. They wanted windows, and maybe sky-lights, iron bars, screens and doors. The workers had to go back and redo most of the first 20. Then some of the villagers said, "we have a place for a toilet in our bouse."

The Friends made

another survey. By phase three: "Another 25 houses and lots more fund-raising," the villagers wanted bath-rooms. 'Dry toilets worked best," explain the Friends, "so we go back to install them in the other houses, too - 'go back' means they are happy with the changes.

Aged Dana was rallying. As the new look spread over the village, so did enthusiasm in every direction. Families were stirred with oew hope. The Tafileh Governorate brought in electricity. The Ministry of Public Works improved the road. Ther RSCN built a visitor and research ceotre and

launched the Wadi Dana socio-economic project, led by Rebecca Salti, to develop money-making products for the villagers sun-dried apricots, grapes and figs, silver-leafed jewellery with the Dana stone, pottery in the ancient tradition - and to renovate the terraced gardens. Agricultural expert, Nabech Al Kayed, from the Queen Noor Al Hussein Fouodatioo, helped organise the farmers and trained them in growing medicinal herbs and organic farming, Villagers were hired to clear the springs and channels of the entrenched brambles and widen the footpaths for the families returning once more to work their orchards and for future tourists.

The orchards and terraced gardens began blooming again. Water reached the village again by a new stone structure with three streams of cool spring water jetting from its massive arched wall. Villagers started request-

ing a new mosque to replace their caved-in relic. ammar Khammash researched historic mosques while the Friends went back to fund-raising. "It was a headache for funds. Today, Khammash's rustic stone mosque, shaded by old pines and cypress, en-joys the centre of attention, radiating tranquility, in friendly harmony with the architecture and golden hues of the village and matching cliffs.

Now everyone wants to see Dana. Tourists are coming. Amman people who have supported Dana are coming. Magazines are featur-

ing its comeback. Documentary photographers are filming its wild panorama. The Friends of Archaeology brought 80 members to see it on thier over-night stay at the camp site across the canyon. Over the coming year nature groups flying in to see the wildlife will, visit this Ottoman village where the roosters still crow and the donkeys still bray and the muezzin still sings out his call to prayet without a microphone. inadvertently the

friends of Dana have played a role in the renovation sweeping Jordan. The 65 homes, the mosque and other buildings they restored will have a farreaching impact on the area Dana is becoming a model for ecocomic and architectural revival. The work of these women in renovating the village has provided a crucial link between the effort to protect

Dana's oature while providing a base for the people living next to the Reserve to improve their standard of living through tourism and related activities. Having devoted a large part of their lives to their four-year adventure into the unknown, toiling with the zeal of a one-track mind, these wives and

mothers have made unex-

pected gains in unexpected

places. While breaking out

of their comfortable urban

environment to brave barsh

weather, five-bour round

trips, noo-stop discussions with excited villagers, and long absences from family, tbey bave had a crash course in the problem, behaviour and psychology of Jordan's rural people. Their skills in strategyplanning, financing and organising implementation have developed automatically. On the personal level, they cherish the bond of friendship and closeness

this experience has nurtured among them. "Many times we felt we bit off more than we could chew," adds Maria. "But we've also shared elation and a rewarding sense of satisfaction. Our families, friends, and the people of Jordan have been wonderful. We couldn't have done it without their support -

moral and financial. They came, they gave, they clapped. We want them to feel the reward as we do for what they have achieved." There is much yet to be

donc.

The Friends have begun transforming another two dwellings into a small cen-tre furnished with modern facilities, kitchenette, guest rooms, terrace and display area for villagers' bandicrafts. The road needs to be paved with flagstones. Donors are welcome to fund a terraced courtyard between the mosque and the spring house. Many houses remain to be restored.

But, as Majida said "When you believe in something, it bas to hap-

The writer is a travel write: and former sheep herder. She divides her time between her home in Salt Lake City and visiting her daughter in Jordan. she contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

Yemeni leader ends visit

(Continued from page 1)

bunting and over-grazing.

Parliament's committee on foreign and parliament affairs, Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Mohammad Abdullah Batani, Minister of Fisheries Abdul Rahman Bafadal, Abdullah Hassan Bashiri, secretary-general of the presidency, and the Yemeni ambassador to Jordan, Hassan Lawzi.

At the press conference, President Saleh noted with irony that Arab countries were moving towards relations with Israel while the Atab World was fragmented over differences. He called for setting aside all "petty" inter-Arab differences and launch a new era in relations among Arab countries.

President Saleh said the Arabs needed solidarity and unity, "particularly at this stage in history when the world is witnessing the formation of coalitions among countries and the Arab World remains frag-, mented."

He said he found understanding and concern among the Arab leaders he met during his current tour for solidarity. "which is in-evitable," and a desire to overcome the negative consequences of the Gulf crisis.

In reply to a question, the King said he was not mediating between Egypt and Sudan, which are feuding after a June 26 attempt on Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's life by unknown assailants in Addis Ababa.

The King voiced relief that Mr. Mubarak escaped the attack and said he planned to visit Cairo soon to congratulate the president on his escape. We all suffer from what is known as terrorism,

said the King. "We are against terrorism and terrorists, whoever they are and wherever they

President Saleh said he was also not mediating between Cairo and Khartoum, but that he was to discuss the issue with Mr. Mubarak in Egypt on Friday. The issue is of concern to all Arab countries, he added.

In reply to a question on Iraq, the King said: "We all are living the suffering of

the brotherly Iraqi people. We hope this suffering will end soon and we are keen to achieve that...these people have suffered enough and they should not suffer

icrafts to sight-seers.

The King also expressed confidence that Iraq would regain the status it had in the Arab World and the international scene and that it would be part of the positive atmosphere for peace in the region.

The King also voiced confidence that Yemen would achieve comprehensive progress and the unity of Yemen would be preserved. He also wished Yemen well in its efforts to reconcile with other Arab countries. "We support them (the Yemenis) with our capabilities and energies on the bilateral level and within the framework of our one Arab

On Friday, King Hussein held another round of talks with President Saleh at the General Headquarters of the Armed Forces.

The Yemeni leader was seen off by the King, Crown Prince Hassan, Sharif Zeid and other top-level offi-

Serbs launch attack on Zepa

(Continued from page 12)

should be ... accomplices to this barbarism, accomplices to these practices of ethnic cleansing, and their presence in that case would be in question," he said.

French Defence Minister Charles Millon headed for Bosnia on Friday after issuing Western allies a 48-hour deadline to join the French in

response to the Serb attacks. Mr. Millon's government is keen to use the new Anglo-French-led U.N. rapid reaction force against Serb aggression despitie the reluct-

in Bosnia must make the decision. He acknowledged that the Serbs' takeover of Srebrenica and the capture of dozens of Dutch peacekeepers had humiliated the United Nations.

Israel, PLO launch talks

Mr. Burns said the Israeli and Palestinian officials asked him to participate in ance of its allies. Only the U.N. can authorise action by the force and Britain has given a cool response.

The Clinton administration says it will support whatever decision the United Nations and European nations make on the use of force against Bosnian Serbs. State Department spokes-

man Nicholas Burns said countries with peacekeepers

(Continued from page 1)

Dennis Ross, the diplomat in charge of Middle Eastern affairs at the State Department, was asked to join the talks "at the request of both parties, as they try to conclude their negotiations by their own target date of July 25," said State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns.

conversations "about the status of the talks and the central issues of those talks."

Mr. Ross met Wednesday with Yasset Arafat in Gaza and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus, Mr. Burns said, adding the diplomat had touched base and would meet later with Israeli leaders. Mr. Burns said the July 25

date remained the target date for an accord between the parties, but said that even if that deadline is not met.

Australia to play active role

(Continued from page 1)

ture, industry and domestic

Sharif Zeid also reviewed the problems facing the other tracks of the Middle East peace process and expressed hope that these would be overcome soon to serve the goal of a comprehensive peace in the region, Petra

Mr. Evans, who visited the Gaza Sirip, the West Bank and Israel for talks with Palestinian and Israeli leaders, reiterated Australia's support for Jordan's peace efforts and appreciation of the Kingdom's role in ensuring the success of the Arab-Israeli peace process, particularly the Istaeli-Palestinian

track of negotiations. Bilateral relations and Australia's participation in the MENA summit were also the key themes for talks between Mr. Evans and Mr. Kabariti, who told reporters that the discussions also involved foreign affairs, the developments in the peace process and the situation in Bosnia

and Iraq. Mr. Kabariti said Jordanian and Australian views on the issues discussed were

idennical.

In bis comments to reporters, Mr. Evans also touched on the French decision to resume nuclear testing in South Pacific. Australia is a strong opponent of nuclear testing and has severely criticised the French move.

"Obviously, the reaction in the South Pacific area has been very strong to the (French) decision..., which we regard as provocative, dangerous and generally indefensible," said the foreign minister.

"This was a wrong decision at the wrong time," he said. We can only hope (that) by a combination of protest and persuasion, we can encourage the French to rethink what was a very bad decision.

Mr. Evans' visit was the second by an Australian minister to Jordan this year. Trade Minister Bob McMullan visited in February in what was seen as a major boost to Jordanian-Australian trade relations.

According to official Jordanian figures, Australia's exports to Jordan — mostly livestock, meat, rice and dairy products - amounted to about JD 40 million in 1994 while the Kingdom's exports to Australia -- phosphates and fertilizer products

were around JD 7 million. Australia, which has a large agricultural base, could increase its imports from Jordan, officials say.

While in Lebanon, Mr. Evans, foreign minister since September 1988, who will be accompanied by Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs Nick Bolkus, will reopen the Australian Embassy in Beirut on Saturday. The mission was closed in 1984 at the height of the Lebanese civil war.

"An era of growth and prosperity beckons in the new Lebanon," the two ministers said in a joint statement on June 27. "We applaud the enthusiasm with which the Lebanese people have embraced the process of national reconciliation and are heartened by the reconstruction now occurring.

"It is clear that the renowned capabilities and talents of the Lebanese people are once again finding their fullest expression, to the benefit of their country, and, ultimately, to the wider re-

Turnover up, share prices down at AFM

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Turnover rose by 12 per cent and share prices slipped by nearly one per cent last week at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) as investor enthusiasm continued to be restrained by uncertainties regarding prospects for key economic reforms.

Brokers said the market was dampened by the delay in the presentation by the government of draft legislation related to taxation and investments and a new companies law to Parliament.

The draft laws were supposed to have been sent to Parliament last month, but there was no immediate explanation for the delay. The Council of Ministers approved amendments to the sales tax law last week, but it was not known when Parliament would take up the issue.

The weekly AFM report said turnover for the week ending Thursday rose to JD 5.6 million from the previous week's JD 5 million. A bloc sale of Dar Al Dawa shares worth nearly JD 1 million and trading in Arab Bank shares worth JD 850,000 led the list of trading for the week.

Other firms which saw significant action included the Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette Company with a volume of JD 347,000, the Philadelphia Bank with JD 276.000. Arab International Hotels with JD 265,000, Universal Modern Industries with JD 263,000, and the tors, said the brokers.

Jordanian Electrical Power Company with JD 196,000. The official AFM index based on 60 major companies from among the 120 listed in

the market shed 1.4 points, or 0.9 pere cent, to close for the week at 155.1 points. Industrials slipped by 2

points, or 1.5 per cent, and closed at 129.67 points, commercial banks and financial institutions by 1.1 points or 0.6 per cent, to close at 179.93 points, insurance firms by 0.1 points, or 0.04 per cent, to close at 135.4 points, and service sector firms remained unchanged at 131.97 points, the AFM report said.

Changing hands during the week were 1.8 million shares under 2,906 contracts.

Trading involved shares of 88 companies. As business closed for the week, 20 of them had gained, 61 had slipped and seven remained un-

Industrials accounted for 52.1 per cent of the tunrover with JD 2.92 million, followed by banks with JD 1.87 million (33.4 per cent), service sector companies with JD 760,000 (13.6 per cent) and insurance companies with 3D 50,000 (0.9 per cent).

AFM brokers said the relative inaction in the market was largely due to hesitation on the part of many to make major investment decisions.

Institutions also appeared to be apathetic to taking closer action in the last three weeks, and this had a serious effect on individual specula-

Mercedes signs deal with China

BONN (AFP) - Mercedes-Benz signed an agreement in principle on Thursday with the South China Motor Corporation Ltd. (Nanfang) for the production of big passenger cars and automobile engines in China, the German auto manufacturer announced.

The signing of the 1.4billion-mark (one-billiondollar) deal took place in Bonn during a visit by Chinese President Jiang

The agreement. announced in Stuttgart Wednesday, covers the creation of a joint-venture of which Mercedes would hold

ministers_and officials from

Turkey, Egypt, Jordan, Syria

and Iraq discussed a \$590

million project on Thursday

to link their power grids at a

conference in southern Tur-

key. Anatolian News Agency

Turkey's Energy Minister Veysel Atasoy told the meet-

ings the "interconnection

per cent. The venture would produce 60,000 so-called monos-pace vehicles and 100,000 diesel and petrol (gasoline) engines a year at two factories in southern China. One

be exported. Mercedes said. Mercedes-Benz spokesman Christian Dau said the agreement in principle would give way later to a cooperation contract.

fifth of the production would

Under the agreement Mercedes had won 'nearexclusivity" for the production of monospace vehicles and motors, the spokesman said, noting that the company had beaten U.S. giants Ford and Chrysler to win the deal.

envisaged signing an agree-

ment to enable the transfer of

reserve electricity among the

He was quoted by the

agency as saying that a 400-

megawatt power link would

be completed by 1997 be-

tween Turkey and Syria, and

another 400-megawatt be-

tween Syria and Iraq, the first

member states in 1996.

launched in 1989.

project,

Saudi-China oil refinery talks snagged

SINGAPORE (R) — China will terminate talks with Saudi Arabia on expanding capacity in Maoming. China's biggest southern oil refinery. if agreements cannot be reached by the end of the year, a refinery official said on Friday.

"If talks cannot reach any agreement by year-end, we will call for future discussions." Fang Guangxin. chief engineer at the Maoming Refinery, told Reuters.

State-owned Saudi Aramco has been holding discussions since May 1994 with Maoming. China's second largest refiners. located in booming Guangdong Province. The latest round of talks was held late last week, Mr. Fang said.

With or without Saudi cooperation. Maoming plans to expand the 8.5 million tonnes-per-year refinery by five million tonnes with addition of a primary distillation unit by June 1997. The project will cost about \$333 mil-

lion, the company said. Negotiations reached an impasse earlier this year when the two sides could not agree on the size of the Saudi stake in the new plant and the existfing units at Maoming.

The Saudis said they were afraid of competition from domestic refineries," Mr. Fang said.

But the Chinese found the fears unfounded and incomprehensible given the large domestic demand in the south, he added.

Standardised ex-refinery rices for refined products would assure Aramco of a profit margin, Mr. Fang said. "Prices (of refined pro-

ducts) are the same everywhere," he said. "We find it very strange that they have been talking to us and coming here for over a year, yet they don't seem to understnad the Chinese oil industry.'

Saudi Aramco had wanted at least a 50 per cent stake, but Beijing limits foreign ownership in joint ventures to 49 per cent.

Aramco was also reluctant to assume ownership of various non-oil operations connected with the refinery. which goes against Beijing's policy of not allowing any joint venture to result in a loss of jobs. China's oil refineries are

massive organisations run like self-contained towns with housing shops and hospitals and provide millions of jobs. Maoming has an active workforce of 25,000 but supports a population of 80,0000 including retirees and depen-

While Mr. Fang said the latest talks were cordial, he maintained that Saudi participation or support was not pivotal to Maoming's expansion plans.

"We have raised between 70 to 80 per cent of the funds needed for our expansion programme ... and the rest can easily be raised either by our headquarters (state refiner Sinopec) or by us." Mr. Fang said. "We are not dependent on the Saudis.'

Aramco had suggested setting up a joint venture company with the Maoming refinery to procure crude oil from Saudi Arabia for its operations and to market its products, he said.

"But we don't see any need for it. We are already buying crude for our refinery ourselves and we are marketing the products," Mr. Fang

The Maoming refinery set up a marketing arm in Singapore early this year which procures crude and markets refined products.

Mr. Fang did not preclude talks with other companies for other expansion programmes. "We can still talk to other companies in the future if we have expansion prog-rammes later on." he said.

Solidere sales seen at \$150m in 2 months

BEIRUT (R) - Lebanon's Solidere company has sold land and buildings in central Beirut worth \$150 million since starting sales two months ago and many more deals are in the pipeline, an industry source said on

"Total sales so far are \$150 million," the source said,

"The first sale was in May. There are many many demands and foreign buyers are in discussions, including in-ternational companies," he added.

The \$1.8 billion Solidere company formed last year to rebuild central Beirut has sold nine plots and two buildings since the pressure of demand persuaded it to start immediate sales rather than wait until 1996 as originally planned, the source said. The area sold totals 30,000

square metres out of I.8 million square metres Solidere is developing, and the built-up area of the 11 projects will be 150.000 square metres. The price of the sales was

"Later Syria and Jordan

will be connected on a 300-

megawatt power link. A 400-

megawatt power transfer will

be made from Jordan to

Egypt and 300-megawatt

from Egypt to Jordan," he

Jordanian Energy Minister

Samih Darwazeh told Reu-

ters in Amman before leaving

Turks, Arab nations study \$590m power grid

nase of the deal.

\$950 per square metre of built-up area, which works out at nearly \$5,000 per square metre of land, the source said. But this could quickly rise,

"Sales now are at \$950 but maybe in one or two months it will be \$1,200." he said. A Solidere source told Reuters the board decided to start selling in May because

of many demands from ospective buyers. 'We were under pressure from people calling us, so we decided to start sales," he

When the company was formed in May 1994 many people sent us dossiers and asked how they could buy. The company waited and waited and then the board decided to start selling because we couldn't keep these people waiting," the Soli-dere source added.

The plots sold so far are for construction of two five-star hotels, a three-star hotel, a bank headquarters, a construction company headquarters. a newspaper office,

for the meeting that Jordan's

link with Egypt would cost about \$35 million and that

At a later stage when Tur-

key and Iraq are linked, the

grid between Turkey, Iraq and Syria will have a 750

megawatt power transfer capacity." Mr. Atasoy said.

Turkey plans to spend

with Syria \$75 million.

headquarters of the Arab Contractors' Association a \$70 million commercial centre and a private polyclinic. Saudi Prince Houssam Ibn Saud recently bought 3,000 square metres for construc-

Forum Hotel expected to cost \$29 million, the industry source said. Two traditional buildings have also been sold, one for

tion of an Intercontinental

conversion into restaurants and the other for a food company headquarters, he

They are among 265 buildings of architectural or social value that are being preserved in the city centre while the rest of the war-damaged buildings are demolished for redevelopment.

A Muslim religious organisation and a Roman Catholic religious order are in dis-cussions to buy land to build schools and hospitals and the Beirut Stock Exchange is discussing buying a building for its trading floor, the industry

\$35.44 million in 1995 to build power lines from the gigantic Ataturk dam in the southeast to the Syrian border, to be later extended to Damascus in 1997.

A further \$10.97 million spending is planned to build power lines to the Iraqi border to link up Turkish and Iraqi networks by 2002.

THE BETTER HALF,

2

Gulf oil prices expected to fall

DUBAI (R) - Prices for refined oil products in the Gulf spot market are expected to weaken further now that the Indian Oil Corp (IOC) has secured most of its import needs for August through a buying tender, oil traders in the Gulf said.

Supplies in the market from Gulf refineries are more than adequate to meet IOC's needs and that there will be little short-covering this month to lift prices unless refinery maintenance or additional tenderiog emerges, they added. The price of gas oil (diesel)

has fallen to around a 10 cents a barrel premium to independently-assessed price quotes FOB Mideast, down from a 35 cents premium just two weeks ago. The gas oil quote was notionally assessed at \$19.65 a barrel.

Kerosene prices were assessed by traders at parity to the Mideast quote (\$19.70 a barrel), down from a 15 cents a barrel premium at the start of July.

"The premium is now under threat," a trader in Dubai said.

Gulf traders said that prices for the two fuels could be supported by buying tenders from Sri Lanka and east Africa states but that fresh gas oil supplies out of Iran could undermine any recovery in prices.

Other news in a week when crude oil futures' prices touched their lowest level so far this year is as follows:

- The Vienna-based OPEC Secretariat said that the group's production rose to 24.88 million barrels per day (bpd) last month, up from 24.71 million bpd in May and above the organisation's supply quota of 24.52 million bpd.

- The Kuwait Petroleum Corp (KPC) was the main beneficiary of the IOC tender and will supply India with 135,000 tonnes of kerosene and 270,000 tonnes of diesel in August.

Kerosene has already been sold to Kenya out of the Jubail refinery in Saudi Arabia and the same refinery is likely to supply an August tender issued by Sri Lanka.

- Bunker fuel oil prices in the region fell to their lowest level so far this year with 180 est Grade talked at \$86.00 a tonoe from \$88.00 at the start of the month and adrift of the 1995 high of \$111.00 a tonne.

But Gulf-based brokers noted increased interest from owners of very large crude carriers (VLCCS) for bunker

- Freight rate costs for petroleum products from the Gulf to the Far East were unchanged 10 slightly weak-er. Fuel oil rates to Singapore was assessed at \$5.36 a tonne. from \$6.55 last week. Middle distillates to Singapore and naphtha to Tokyo were unchanged at \$12.96 and \$21.81.

GLASBERGEN

By Glasbergen

UAE turns to European gas market

ABU DHABI (AFP) - The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is turning to France and other European countries to market its liquefied natural gas after lower demand in Japan created a surplus to its production.

The Abu Dhabi Gas Liquefaction Company (ADGAS), the UAE's main LNG producer, said it had sold nearly 250,000 tonnes to three European consumers and had finalised deals to sell around one million tonnes for the same firms. It was the first time that the

UAE, a key OPEC oil producer, exports LNG ro Europe as the continent gets most of its Arab gas supplies from Algeria. The Japanese Tokyo Elec-

tric Power Company (TEP-CO) had monopolised LNG purchses from the UAE under a long-term contract signed in 1977. It was extended for 25 years in 1994 after three years of negotia-

In its weekly bulletin. ADGAS said expansions at its Das liquefaction plant had created a large surplus as TEPCO was unable to buy all the ourput.

Because the economic downturn in Japan and the strong yen, TEPCO has been unable to help by taking LNG in excess of the con-

tract," it said.
"ADGAS has more products available than was contracted for. These factors have presented ADGAS with an opportunity to sell LNG in

short-term. Under the new 25-year contract. TEPCO has agreed to nearly double its imports from ADGAS to 4.9 million tonnes following the completion of a 1.3-billion-dollar project to boost the output capacity of Das plant. The amounts include around 4.3 million tonnes of LNG and the rest cover Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), according to industry sources in Abu Dhabi.

The project also included building four gas tankers in Japan at a cost of nearly \$600 million. Three of them have maining one would be re-

friends or relatives.

The sources said ADGAS was also negotiating for the lease of additional tankers to face any increase in demand by the new European clients.

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A review of economic news of the Arabic Free

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"I don't think this situation will last long as demand in Japan is projected to rise in the near future and Algeria will resume normal export operations in Europe," an industry source said. ADGAS said the three

European companies - Gaz de France Distrigas of Belgium and the Spanish Enagas were short of LNG supplies because of a disruption from Algeria due to maintenance of its facilities. Algeria is the top Arab gas

exporter to the West, with a total of around 600,000 equivalent barrels per day in 1993. Nearly 563,000 bpd were supplied to France, Belgium, Spain, Italy and other countries.

According to the Nicosia-based Middle East Economic Survey, Algeria is committed to contracts until the year 2000 to export a total 33.9 billion eubic metres of natural gas per year and 25.8 billion cubic metres of LNG. Most of them would go to Europe.
ADGAS said it had sold

around 180,000 tonnes of LNG to Distrigas and Gaz de France and 65,000 tonnes to Enagas in the first quarter of 1995. The new contracts until March next year involve supplying 288,000 tonnes in nine cargos to Enagas and 717,000 tonnes in five cargos to the ". other two companies.

ADGAS expansion project was completed in late 1994 and involved the installation of the biggest production train in the world. The expansion was requested by TEPCO in 1990 to cater for its growing needs. Experts said the expansion

and similar projects by other local companies would sharply boost the UAE's gas export earnings, which stood at around four billion dirhams (\$1.08 billion) in 1994.

The UAE, the first LNG producer in the Gulf, has the fourth biggest gas reserves in the world after those in Rusbeen delivered while the re-,, sia, Iran and Qatar, They are estimated at around 5.79 trillion cubic metres

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, JULY 15, 1995 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Cooperate with loved ones in getting home conditions improved and all in fine order this morning, you can gad about town this evening.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Get busy at today's routines and buy items you have long been looking for, and then this evening can be

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Early today handle any leftover business details this moming, and in the evening you can visit with

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Go ahead with whatever you have in mind today for health and appearance improvement which will turn out well.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Many a personal lask can be completed today, so get busy early this morning and make improvements on such, then join with friends later tonight. VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is a fine day for enjoying the company of good friends at social affairs, but this evening must

be reserved for the one you love. LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) First get busy at the tasks for which you have had little time during the busy week, then pursue personal goals.

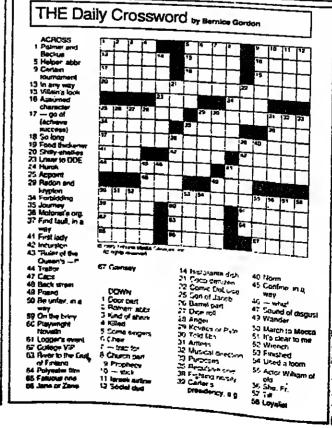
SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Formulate some plan early this morning, and then earry through with it and test it on the public

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is a good day to handle those difficulties you have found difficult to solve before this and which has hindered your progress. CAPRICORN: 1 December 22 to January 20) Take time to come to a

fine agreement with your fellow associates early today and tonight show them your appreciation. AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is a fine morning to organise your tasks so that they become easier to handle. Take any

health treatments and exercise needed. PtSCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is a good day for enjoying amusements which most please you. Then you can handle duties requiring your attention this evening.

Birthstone of July: Ruby - Tiger's Eye



Peanuts





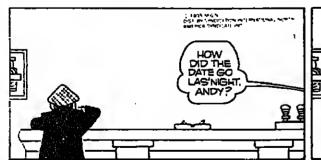








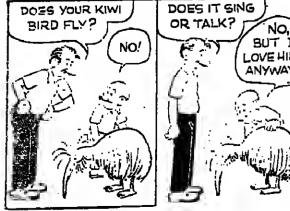
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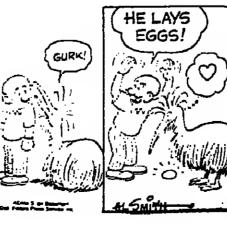


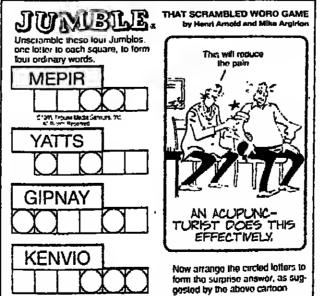
Mutt'n'Jeff











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It's not my fault!"

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Factories call for hiking prices of dairy products

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of dairies in Jordan called for reconsidering the recent rise in the prices of their products as set by the Ministry of Supply, saying it was insignificant compared to the rise in fresh milk prices. Threatening to stop receiving any quantity of milk from cow breeders if the prices are not hiked once more, the owners and managers of dairy factories called for raising the prices of their products in a manner commensurate with the rises in the prices of fresh milk. At an emergency meeting they held at the Amman Chamber of Industry, they said milk prices rose by 10 per cent while the rise in the prices of dairy products was less than four per cent, accusing the ministry of being unfair to them. The ministry decided to raise milk prices by 20 fils a kilo in view of the rise in animal feed prices. The dairies, which receive 25 tonnes of fresh milk a day from breeders, stand to lose JD 10,000 a year in case the ministry does not meet their demands, they said (Al Dustour).

·Jordan will participate in an international exhibition of garden and picmic furniture and equipment to be held in the German city of Cologne in the period August 3-5. More that 1,100 companies representing 50 countries will participate in the exhibition (Al Ra'i).

** A new holding company, Al 'Asr Investments Company, was established with a capital of JD 7.2 million. The establishment of the company was announced at a meeting held in Amman in the presence of 23 founders. A report prepared by the founders' committee said procedures to establish the company started four months ago and it was registered with the Ministry of Industry and Trade on June 22, 1995, as a holding company to be to invest in as many elds as possible. Omar Salah, who was elected chairman of the board of directors at the meeting, said the company will establish various companies along with reputed international establishments. Mr. Salah said the company was currently in touch with an English company affiliated to the American Hanes group to establish an underwear factory expected to start production by the end of the year. He added that there were also contacts with the American Destination company to expand an existing ready to wear factory and market cotton clothes and products in the U.S.(Al Aswaq).

ish mainland has rs fearing it will zens of jobs on ** The Jordan and Gulf Bank opened its branch in i complaining the high. But Sir Jale high. But Sir Jale airman of Skyr high that the lower lower law and that the lower lower law and the lower lower law and the lower lower lower law and the lower law and the lower law and law an le West Bank city of Tulkarm in a special cerethat was lowering mony held in the city's onne section into main square. The branch is y, defended the the bank's second in the if the bridge le should state it rather is to The bridge is to Palestinian territories (Al Aswaq).

Strike cripples British rail

LONDON (R) - Britain's national Rail network ground to a standstill on Friday when train dirvers launched a 24hour strike over pay.

Only Eurostar trains, the only international service in Britain which runs through the Channel Tunnel to Paris and Brussels, was operating normally.

Just a handful of other trains were running in the morning rush hour as most of the 12,000 drivers belonging to the Union Aslef heeded a strike call, dashing hopes by employers that many would turn up for work as normal.

Up to 18,000 passenger trains are expected to be cancelled during the day, losing British Rail, which runs the Rail network, up to 10 million pounds (\$15,88 million) in revenue.

Airlines and coach operstors put on extra services to cope with expected demand from train commuters trying to find another way to get to work.

Roads into London where 100,000 people usually travel to work by train were busier than normal but not chaotic as the morning rush hour began.

Some people were expected to take the day off work rather than struggle through heavy traffic on the roads.

The capital's underground railway, not operated by British Rail, was working as normal but could be sucked into future one-day strikes that the union has threatened.

The strike is the first in a series of six one-day stoppages planned by Aslef after it rejected a three per cent pay offer.

Business leaders said they were disappointed and frustrated at the prospect of Rail stoppages this year after suf-fering heavy losses last year AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHMEISANI TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179

ORGANISED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (08/07/1995 -- 12/07/1995) WEEKLY REPORT



					MANCIAL				
	لا است د است د است				JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES	14,873	3.800	3.800	3.800
COMPANY'S HAME	TRADING	PREV.	OPENING	CLOSING	THE PUBLIC MINING	1,751	3,150	3.150	3.100
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ARAB BAME Pic	858, 145	218.500	218.500	216.000	ARAB INVESTMENT & INCRNATIONAL TRADE	24,200		0.760	0.770
JORDAN MATIONAL BANK	191,920	4.570	4.570	4.670	ARAB ALIMIRIUM INDUSTRY	23,020		5.800	5.690
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	8,569	4.550	4.550	4.510	LIVESTOCK 6 POULTRY	20,659	0.540	0.540	0.510
BANK OF JORDAN	12,846	1.300	3.300	3.470	ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	17,306		1.400	1.390
MIDDLE BAST INVESTMENT BANK.	7,154	1.330	1.220	1.320	MATIONAL STEEL DEDUSTRY	27,300		2.550	2.450
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT SAME	13, 204	2.570	2.570	2.550	MATIONAL IMPOSTRIES	2,488		1.190	1.170
THE MOUSING BANK	101,685		2,100	8-150	INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	185,126		2.250	2.260
JORDAN KUWAIT BARK	12,990	2.850	2.850	2.840	JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	425	4.250	4.250	4.250
JORDAN GULF BANK	11,144	1.290	1.290	1.240	JORDAN ROCKHOOL TENGSTRIES	695		1.170	1.120
ARAS JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	42,652	3.950	2.950	2-900	ALADDIM INDUSTRIES	. 652		4.500	4.250
JORDAN ISLANIC BANK	74,547	_	2.760	3.750	JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JINCO	256	0.630	0.610	0.640
UNION BARK POR SAVING & INVESTMENT	5,322				JORDAN SULPHO-CHENICALS	1,543		1-690	1.610
DOGSHEES BANK	6,402	2.900	3.900	3.850	ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CREMICALS	12,601		2.250	2-220
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	71,719	4.250	4.250	4.150	EASTER INVESTMENT	1,369		1.500	1.540
BELT BLMAL EAVINGLINVESTMENT FOR MODEING	15,267	3.780	3.780	2.770	DEIVERSAL HODERN INDUSTRIES	263,762		2.210	3.220
ANNAN BARK FOR INVESTMENT	72,585	1-120	1.120	1.100	JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	56, 179	2.170	2.170	2-120
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	2,767	5.150	5.250	5.200	JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	46,571		1.940	1.980
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK:	275,201	1.610	1.510	1,560					
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JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	22,462	2.620	2.620	2.670	PARATTER MARKET STARTING ASSESSMENT OF		400 (07.4)		/0.7./
MOLY LAMP INSURANCE	1,405	2.010	2.830	2.970	PARALLEL MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FO		[08/07/	1775 - 12	/0//1395]
ARAS LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	650	2.600	2.600	2.600	WERGLY	KEPUKT			
JORDAN GULF INSURANCE	608	2.200	2.200	3.040		TRADING	PREV	COVET	RG CLOSIÁ
THE NATIONAL ANDIA INSURANCE	6,000	3.100			COMMANY'S NAME	VOLUME		NG PRICE	
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JORDAN MATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	52,879	2.810	2.810	2.920	CEIPIED CO. FOR ORGANISING LAND TRANS.
MATIONAL PORTFOLIG SECURITIES	25,572	2.400	2,400	2,210	ARAB FIN INV.CO
REAL SETATE INVESTMENT	5,845	1.050	1.050	1.020	ARAB FOOD & MEDICAL APPLIANCES
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	9,668	1.230	2.230	1.200	MATIONAL CHLORINE INDUSTRIES CO.LID
MACHINARY EQUIP. RESTING 6 NATISTANCE	325	0.670	0.670	0.670	NATIONAL TEXTILE & PLASTICS IND. CO
ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT 6 EDUCATION	69,286	3.200	3.200	3.310	MAYRAK DIRS 6 MOULDS
SHRVICHS SECTOR		625980 CHANGE	INDEX	MUMBER: 121.97 0.001	EL-EAY READY MEAR MANUFACTURING CO. INTERNATIONAL TORACCO 6 CIGARETTES UNIVERSAL METALS
JORDAN TOBACCO 6 CIGARETTES	347,821	26.250	26.250	29.940	NID PHARMA DWIGH CHENICAL & VEGATIABLE OIL INDUSTRI
ATTANGENT CONST. HATERIAL HAMOFACTURING	3,100	1.240	1.260		JOSEPH STEEL
THE JORDAN CENTRE FACTORIES	124,872	7.800	3.800		ARAB ELECTRIC INDUSTRIES
JORDAN PHOSPHATE HINES	41,046	3.040	3.040	3,050	UNION TORACCO
THE ARAB POTASH	11,072	5.110	5.110	5.120	PARI PHARMACRUTICALS
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFISARY	37,953	10.300	10.380	10,220.	INDUSTRIES ENCIRERIES
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL 6 AGRICULTURAL	1,977	3.390	3.390	3.250	INDUSTRIAL CERANIC
THE JORDAN WORSTED MILLS	790	7.950	7.950	7.900	I.TEXTILE MANUFACTURES.
ARAB PEARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	+ 49,151	5.000	5.000	4.940	PERRI SAWITARY PAPER COMPERTING
JORDAN CERANIC INDUSTRIES	13,190	6.000	6.000	5.950	
JORDAN DATRY	1,750	2.400	2.400	2.100	GRAND TOTAL "
THE SCHOOL PIPES HANDPACTORING	4.404	2.620	2.610	2.560	والمتعادية والمستردين والمتالية والمتعادية والمتعاد والمتعادية وال

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Financial Markets

Jordan Times Cairo Amman Bank



Currency	Hem York Close The 12/7/95	Takyo Clast Den 3/1/95
Sterling Pound	1.5915	1.59134*
Deutsche Mark	1.4025	1.4049
Swiss Franc	1.1675	1.171944
French Franc	4.8810	4.8905**
Japanese Yen	87.35	87.70
European Curreny Unit	1.3220	1.316940

turocurrency interest Re	Date: 13/7/1995				
Currency	I MIII	3 MTTES	4 MTHS	te MTS	
U.S. Dollar	5.62	5.56	5.50	5.43	
Sterling Pound	6.37	6.50	6.68	6.93	
Deutsche Mark	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.37	
Swies Franc	2.50	2.62	2.75	2.93	
Prench Franc	6-43	6.28	6.10	6.03	
Јэранцис Үси	0.68	0.62	0.62	0.62	
European Currency Unit	5.88	5.87	5.90	6.06	

Precious Metals				Date: 7		
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm ³	Metal	USD/Qz	JD/Gm	
Cold	369.30	7.50	Silver	5.26	0.120	

Сигтемсу	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6970	0.6990
Sterling Pound	1.1083	1,1158
Desische Mark	0.4961	9.4985
Swist Franc	0.5964	0.5994
French Franc	0.1428	0.1435
Japanese Yen*	0.7959	0,7999
Dutch Guilder	0.4430	0.4452
Swedish Krons	204404	424454
Italian Lira*	0.0431	0.0433
Belgian Franc		*****

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) - Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and

oullion markets F	Friday.	
J.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3592/02	
	1.3884/94	
	1.5554/64	
	1.1614/24	
	28.56/60	
	4.8410/60	
	1606.4/1.4	
	87.12/22	
	7.1750/50	
	6.1730/80	
	5.4135/65	
One sterling	\$1.5958/68	
\15 ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~		

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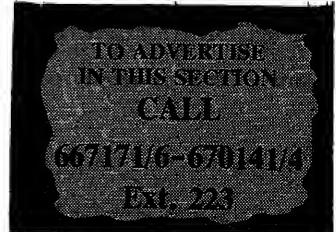
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World Basketball Championship

Jordan impressive in 61-51 defeat to U.S.

By Aleen Bannayan Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Jordan's Under-18 national basketball team impressed world basketball officials when they lost by a mere 10 points to titleholders the United States 61-51 in their first round match at the 5th Junior World Basketball Championship currently underway in Greece.

Although the team had also lost to runners-up Italy 87-64 in their opening match, team and Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) officials expressed their satisfaction as the young group of players are certain to secure a bright future for Jordanian bas-

Jordan was to play Australia late Friday evening. The Australian team, who had finished at a disappointing 11th place in the 1992 championship, are now the unbeaten team in Group C after upsetting titleholders the U.S. 71-69 and Italy 74-66.

Jordan, a third place finisher in the Asian Championship, gave the U.S. a hard time before losing the first half 32-29.

The U.S. opened the second half with a 14-2 run

but Jordan outscored the titleholders 15-3 to close the gap and tie the game at 49-49 with 4 minutes re-

maining.
The U.S. outscored Jordan 12-2 in the final minutes to end the game with a 10 point victory after Jordan's Zeid Alkhas, Ma'an Odeh and Ashraf Samarah

were fouled out. Jordan's top scorers were: Zeid Alkhas 20, Ihab Msih 9 and Ashraf Samarah 9 and Ma'an Odeh 6.

In their first match Jordan lost to Italy 87-64, the first half ending 36-28. The Kingdom's team lost a total 16 free throws and 21 shots, while the Italian team had 14 steals

Ma'an Odeh was the top scorer with 15 followed by Zeid Alkhas with 13.

Sixteen countries are competing in the championship. Jordan is playing in Group C which is probably the toughest as it includes titleholders the U.S., runners-up Italy and Australia.

Group A includes China. Venezuela, Lithuania, and Croatia. Group B includes Nigeria, S. Korea, Argentina and France. Group D includes Angola. Puerto Rico, Greece and Spain.

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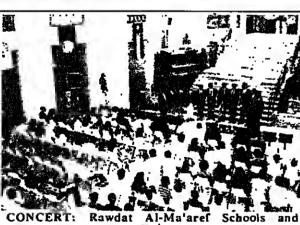
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Other results came as fol-

Group A Croatia - China 90-71 Lithuania - Venezuela 85-84 in overtime

Group B France - Nigeria 76-55 Argentina - S. Korea 93-

Group D Spain - Angola 91-49 Greece - Puerto Rico 109-

The first round matches will run up to July 21st when the competing teams begin the second round. The qualifiers will play for the 1-16th places in the final round July 22.

The U-18 team is the first to represent Jordan in a world championship, and only the third Arab country to qualify for the World Basketball Championship. Egypt finished last in Sao Paulo in 1979 while Syria came in 12th among 16 in the 1992 championship in

Jordan's team includes Zeid Alkhas, Ma'an Odeh. Ashraf Samarah, Mahmoud Sha'ban, Samer Nino, Ihab Msih, Ramzi Ghneim, Fadi Al Sagga, Zeid Zu'mot, Ra'ed Ghosheh, Ziyad Naghoj, and Seif Lada'.

	Match statistics	
	Jordan	U.S.
Fast Breaks	6/11	9/21
Fouls	18	15
Rebounds	36	47
Assists	4	10
Turnovers	23	27
Steals	10	17
Blocks	1	6



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Matthaeus unlikely to start new season

MUNICH (R) — Germany's World Cup captain Lothar Matthaeus, who has been out of soccer for the last six months because of a serious Achilles tendon injury, is unlikely to be fit to start the new season.

The 34-year-old midfielder, who missed the second half of last season after an operation on his lower left beel, has been told he will need further surgery on the tendon, his club Bayern

Munich said on Friday.

Matthaeus is unlikely to
train for several weeks and
will almost certainly miss the start of the new German sea-

son in mid-August.
"He will need an operation on the same tendon. We are not sure how long he will be out of action. That will depend on his recovery." Bayern spokesman Markus Hoerwick said.

Many feared the career of Germany's most capped player, the star of their 1990 World Cup triumph in Italy, could be over after he tore the tendon last January.

Matthaeus has not played competitively for Bayern or the national team since, although he had been training hard with Bayern at the end of the season and wanted to return to action.

His international future could now be in serious doubt. National coach Berti Vogts refused to call Matthaeus back to Germany duty at the end of the season, a decision which upset the

The midfielder, who has been replaced by striker Juergen Klinsmann as national tcam captain and by Borussia Dortmund's Matthias Sammer as libero, is now unlikely to be ready to con-



Lothar Matthaeus

tinue Germany's European Championship qualifying ampaign at the start of

Vogts has said Matthaeus needs to prove his form in the Bundesliga before he can represent his country again. If the midfielder struggles with injury throughout the season. Vogts is unlikely to take him to next year's European championship finals in England, after which Matthaeus is expected to retire from international football.

Matthaeus is being treated by one of Europe's most respected sports doctors in Hans-Wilhelm Mueller-

Wohlfarth, who has three-times Wimbledon champion Boris Becker and Britain's Olympic 100 metres champion Linford Christie on bis

list of patients. Mueller-Wohlfarth said. however, the injury would probably not need a plaster

Brit

wins

11th

Tour

stage

SAINT ETIENNE (AFP)

- Britain's Max Sciandri

won the 199km 11th stage

of the Tour de France bere

Thursday when he held off Colombia's Hernan Buena-

hora in a sprint to the line.

more than seven minutes clear of the rest of the field at one time and still man-

aged to finish over five

minutes ahead of the peloton but race leader Miguel

Indurian of Spain retains the yellow jersey.

Sciandri, who was born in Derby but spent more of his life in Italy, decided to race for Britain this Irac.

race for Britain this January after years of being ignored by the Italian selec-

For the 28-year-old Sciandri, taking part in his fourth Tour, it was his first

ever stage victory.
The last British winoer

was Chris Boardman last

Sciandri and Buenahora

broke away on their own 50 kilometres from home and despite the blistering beat

managed to stretch the gap with the pack to seven mi-nutes 36 seconds with 10

The race for third place went to Germany's Rolf

Aldag who held off Italy's Andrea Tafi and Dutch-

man Erik Breukink to finish nearly three minutes admit from Sciandri.

kilometres to go.

year in a time-trial.

The two riders were

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The three riders were part of the original breakaway group with Sciandri and Buenahora which began at just after 50 kilometres from the start

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(Ahlan Tatbee') Welcome Normalisation Shows start at 8.30 p.m. For reservation please call tel. 625155 Arrman

"We realise the "We realise the "We realise the "We realise the "ACOG" president (ACOG") president (AC Europe even as Ci centre. On the 19th. we bigger than the Atl. Yabrough said. Yntrough said.

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Security's major

(ADON (AFP) -- (Gaham is set to mont the 12-month b ned by the Football ganon, according to a

The former Arsenal Fi was handed the ba lang found guilty of m duct relating to iri "bungs" following a He has also been or was part of the costs beauty and has id d

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Much work to go in year before Olympics

ATLANTA (Agencies) — Planners for the 1996 Olympics have been counting the days until the Atlanta Games. But now, with barely a year remaining before the opening ceremony, the days are beginning to seem like hours and soon they will seem like minutes.

"We realise there will be increasing attention on many of our programmes - transportation, medical, accreditation and security," Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) president Billy Payne said. "The time has come." Wednesday will mark one year before the centennial

Olympic gathering bere, with ceremonies from here to Europe even as construction workers continue erecting such venues as Olympic Stadium and the Olympie aquatic

"On the 19th, we make a major connection. It becomes bigger than the Atlanta Games," ACOG spokesman Dick

A major celebration will be conducted at Atlanta Stadium while on Times Square in New York, a countdown clock will begin clicking off the minutes remaining until the

Switzerland, officials will send in vitations to 197 nations for a billion-dollar sports and cultural festival being thrown

with other peoples' money.

Payne said 75 per cent of construction is complete for the Games and 76 per cent of the event's \$1.58 billion budget bas been received.

Another \$320 million must be raised to cover staging expenses and fulfill the organisers' vow of a debt-free Games. The money will come from added sponsor and supplier agreements, a Caribbean television agreement and advance service fees for those in need of space and manpower while at the Games.

"It's an impossibility that these Games will not be a resounding success," said Payne.

Poor sales of souvenir coins and inscribed bricks for a memorial park will not force cuts in projects, Payne said, with pushes for such items continuing through the actual

Ticket requests have been \$125 million more profitable than expected, bringing in \$360 million. While much of the money for duplicated requests to major events must be refunded, the interest accumulating on such funds will boost the ACOG ledgers by higher margins than antici-

"Our estimate of ticket reauests was very conservative," Payne said. "Response bas been very good and we keep getting more orders. I feel people will receive tickets they have deemed acceptable.'

Every venue will receive a final run-through before the Games, with most of them coming next month at Atlanta Sports '95, a collection of 12 pre-Olympic events designed to test how well things run during muttiple sports events.

While there will be no transportation or communication system functioning, events such as the Pan Pacific Swim Championships and World Freestyle Wrestling Championships should show any weak points in planning before

the five-ring circus pulls into town next year. Security's major task in the coming months will be background checks on every ACOG staffers and volunteers, more than 70,000 people in all. That comes on top of working with law-enforcement agencies and venue directors to finalise plans for safeguarding athletes, fans and

"It's going to be an awesome challenge," said Lou Arcangeli, chief of Olympic preparations for the Atlanta Police Department.

Some people living in neighbourhoods near the venues fear they might be targets of terrorism, a fear enhanced by the exploding of a bomb at a federal building in Oklahoma

ACOG security chief Bill Rathburh, who handled security at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, said Atlanta

provides a more difficult challenge. But 20 years of advancements provided belp as well. "We're in much better position to provide security because of the improvements in technology," he said.

Organisers concerned with VIP no-shows Faced with the prospect of prime seats going onused before the wary eyes of television cameras and ticketless fans, Olympic organisers are trying to figure out how to

Ideally, those tickets would be surrendered to the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games, which would then sell them to the general public. Billy Payne, the ACOG president, said doing that is not so simple.

"It's political in nature, obviously," Payne said. ACOG is required to set aside a certain number of seats at each event for VIPs, including officials of the international federations that govern the various Olympic sports. These seats generally are among the best available and often appear in full view behind the action during televised

In past Olympics, particularly during early rounds, some officials have found something better to do than attend all the events for which they have seats.

"It appeared to the television cameras as well as the spectators: Look at all those empty seats and therefore wasted seats," Payne said. ACOG will sell tickets at box offices during the Games

and will have the capacity to print tickets on the spot. While some sponsors bave agreed to give unused tickets back to ACOG in time to resell them. Payne said doing that with the sports federations is more difficult because they tend to make their decisions at the last minute. He said, for example, that officials of the swimming federation may have blocks of tickets to two aquatic events

beld at the same time. They logically would like to reserve the option to make the choice, even at the last minute," Payne said, "It's just difficult. Every time you take away a seat, then you are

predetermining some of the decisions that they have had

the discretion to make in the past." Payne told the ACOG board he is studying how to deal with the issue but has not yet come up with a solution. He said the International Olympic Committee and the federations are concerned about the issue and are willing to

do something about it.

Belgium, Netherlands joint hosts of 2000 Euro Championship

GENEVA (AP) - Belgium and the Netherlands were officially confirmed friday as joint hosts of the 2000 European Championship, the first time two countries will jointly stage the quadrennial soccer

event. The decision was ratified by UEFA's executive committee. Belgium and the Netherlands were the only candidates.

The event will run from June 7 to July 2, with the opening match to be played in Brussels on the site of the former Heysel Stadium and the final in either Rotterdam or Amsterdam.

Heysel Stadium, the site of the notorious riots at the 1985 European Champions Cup final between England's Liverpool and Italy's Juventus, has been torn down. A new stadium tentatively named King Baudouin Stadium will be opened later this year with its first event an Aug. 23 game between Germany and Belgium.

"I'm very pleased," said 'UEFA President Lennart Johansson. "I was the one who proposed to change the regulations some eight years ago. Finally, we see the results. It is a very good are quite experienced and both have a tradition of

"It's the biggest sporting event we've ever had in Holland," said Dutch federation president Jeu Sprengers. "We are two small countries that have a rich history in football. We are very glad we can now show Europe and the world what we are able to do and show how we can manage a :tournament in a modern

Sprengers said hosting the event jointly will pose certain administrative prob-

"We are two countries with different law systems and different fiscal sys-tems," he said. "We have to clear up these problems with our governments, but we have cleared up difficulnes up to this moment in a sufficient way for UEFA."

Sprengers said there should be no major logistic-al problems, with the furthest distance between venues being less than 300 kilometres between Amsterdam and Bruges.

The 1996 European Championship will be staged in England.

Five teams struggle to reach finals

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - As southern Africa prepares to host the Nations' Cup for the first time, five countries from the cinderellar football region are poised to

play in the finals. South Africa, hosts of the 16-team showpiece scheduleo to kickoff on January 13, and Zambia bave qualified, and Angola, Malawi and Mozam-

bique should join them. While Zambia are perennial contenders, finishing runners-up twice, Malawi and Mozambique have made only one appearance each and Angola are attempting to reach the finals for the first

In the penultimate round of qualifying matches this weekend, Malawi host Cameroon in Group One, Zambia entertain Mauritius in Group Five and Mozambique and Angola meet in Group Six. Victory for Malawi in

Blantyre on Sunday would bring them level with leaders Zaine : seven points and virtually assure them of a place among the elite after 12-yea, gosence.

Lesotho, who were due to host Zaire, have withdrawn from the competition because they feared the visitors could bring the Ebola virus into the tiny mountain kingdom.

AFRICAN

Zambia and Gabon have

already booked tickets to

Johannesburg and the only issue at stake when modest

Mauritius visit Lusaka is wbo

wins the group.
Second behind Nigeria in
Tunisia last year, Zambia

have lost some sparkle since

but a four-goal victory mar-

gin would take them above

the Gabonese on goal differ-

The 60,00-capacity

Machave Stadium in Maputo should be packed for the meeting of Mozambique and Angola, two of the few African countries where baskerball rather than soccer is the national sport.

Angola top the standings with 12 points, one more than Mozambique and three ahead of the seeded nations. Guinea and Mali, whose

fourth place was the surprise

This clash of Portuguese-

soeaking nations brings

together some of the leading

cup scorers, including Fab-

rice 'Akwa' Mateus, the teen-

age Angolan sensation who

SOCCER

of the 1994 finals.

compatriots Chiquinhe Con-de and Ouana Arnaldo three Guinea must end the unbeaten home record of Nami-

bia to keep their chances alive while Mali should boost their goal difference with a convincing victory over whipping boys Botswana. Goal-shy Tunisia host

much-improved Senegal in a Group 2 showdown which will probably decide who joins George Weah-inspired Liberia in South Africa.

Tunisia are coached by Poland's Henri Kasperczak, who guided Ivory Coast to third place last year, but is having less success with a team that bas managed just three goals in 540 minutes. The North Africans suf-

plays for Benfica in Portugla. Mateus and Antonio fered a further blow to their morale last weekend, losing a 'Paulao' Alves bave scored tbree goals each while warm-up match 2-0 at French Mozambican Nuro Tuali-First Division club Olympie bodne bas, struck four and

Graham has 'no option but to appeal'

LONDON (AFP) - George Graham is set to appeal. against the 12-month ban imposed by the Football Association, according to a report

The former Arsenal manager was banded the ban after being found guilty of misconduct relating to transfer "bungs" following a threeday hearing before three FA

He has also been ordered to pay part of the costs of the hearing and has 14 days in which to lodge an appeal. No figure has been put on the costs but, with three barristers and seven other law-

According to Friday's Dai-ly Mail, an appeal is Graham's most likely next step and he could take the matter to the High Court.

They are giving me no option but to appeal," he is quoted as saying. "I will sit down with my solicitors in the morning to decide whether that will be to a higher FA board within the 14 days they have allowed or in the High Court for the right to pursue

Graham's counsel had made a plea for leniency at

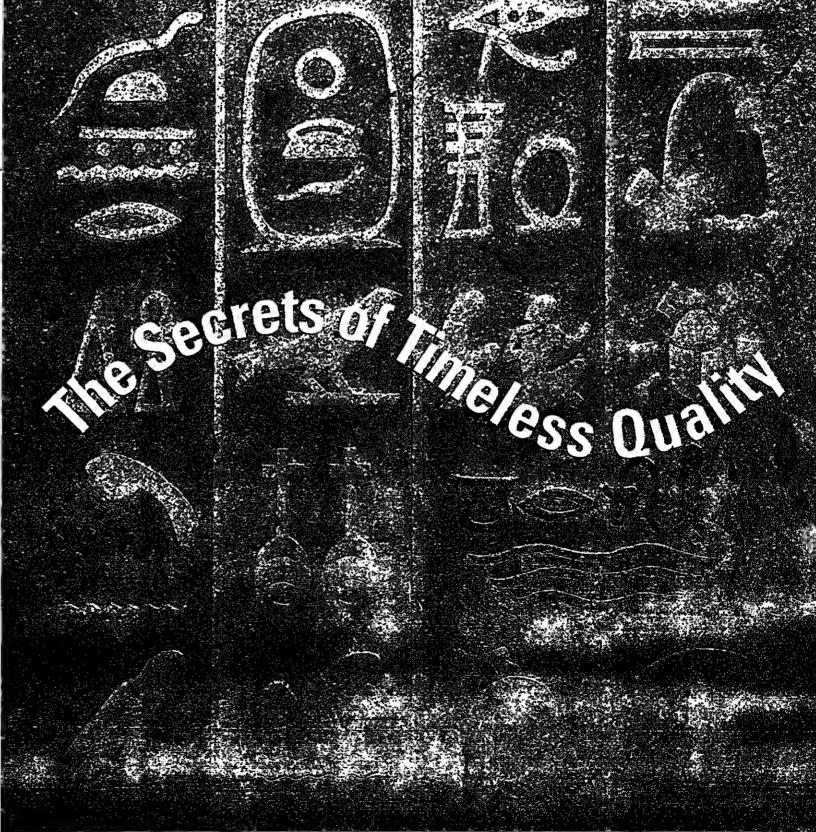
men involved in the commission, it could exceed six fi-

But Graham continued: "In reality, because I've been kept out of work for five months already, this is an 18-month ban.

"But the hidden damage in

this sentence is financial and it is excessive. How do they expect me to meet their costs if they don't want me to

"Compare this to what has bappened to big clubs found guilry of serious financial irregularities and tell me whether this punishment is





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GOREN BRIDGE THOUGHTFUL DEFENSE

decision to double rating that deviced one to trump. South's jump to four hearts seems reasonable—it was unlucky to find North with little outside the club suit. Even so, four hearts was not easy to defeat.

The defenders started with three rounds of diamonabs, declarer win-

The defanders started with three rounds of diamonds, declarer winning the third. Ace of hearts and another threw West on lead and the defender was employed.

It was tempting to try to cash the ace of clubs, but West paused to consider the possibilities. Declarer surely had six hearts for the jump to game, so North's jack of hearts was an entry. Also, since declarer had to have both the ace and king of spades to go to game, a spade return would to go to game, a spade return would be fatal—North's jack would win and a fourth spade could be ruffed. However, declarer had only eight tricks—five trumps, a diamond and two spades—and the defenders sito assure declarer would get one trick and no more: West returned a

JORDAN TIMES TEL: 667171

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Serbs strike at Zepa as Chiractalks tough

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Serb forces began attacking a second Muslim "safe area" in Bosnia on Friday — directly challenging France's call for world action to salvage a humiliated United Nations in the Balkan

As the Serbs targeted the U.N-declared enclave of Zepa, aid officials said thousands of Muslim refugees from the nearby town of Srebrenica were unaccounted for after 30,000 people were herded out of the town by the Bosnian Serb

After failing to deter the assault on Srebrenica Tues-day, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) jets roared over Zepa Friday as Bosnian Serb forces blasted U.N. observation posts in the south of the pocket after issuing an ultimatum that U.N. peacekeepers leave and Zepa's defenders lay down

their arms. U.S. General Joulwan told the NATO Council on Friday that positions held by Ukrainian peacekeepers in the eastern Bosnian Muslim enclave of Zepa have almost all fallen, diplomats said.

Airpresence by NATO was requested by the U.N. over Zepa but no airstrikes were conducted. U.N. officials

Chris Gunness, a U.N. spokesman in Zagreb said the initial reports suggested that "we are seeing another U.N. safe area being overrun.

by Serbs, a huge influx of exhausted, hungry refugees government-held town. U.N.

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel will release 50 non-Palestinian Arabs jailed for

entering the country illegally

to the autonomous authority in the Gaza Strip, Police Minister Moshe Shahal said

He did not set a date for the handover, agreed during talks with Palestinian Coop-

eration Minister Nabil Shaath

on the estimated 6,500

Palestinian prisoners in

Israeli jails. Mr. Shahal said: "There

are about 50 prisoners in our

iails who entered Israel with-

"They have finished their sentences and we presented the possibility that the Palestinains will host them.

They agreed."
He did not say which coun-

tries the group came from, but most are believed to be

There was, however, no

real p ogress announced on

the issue of Palestinian pris-

Organisation (PLO) has de-

manded that a timetable be

established for the release of

all of them as part of an

agreement under negotiation

to extend autonomy across

possibility of releasing pris-oners who are supporting the

peace process, who didn't

commit serious violent acts.'

Mr. Shahal told reporters.

be in two installments, one

together with the signing of

the agreement, the other

group will be released prob-

ably a short time after-

He refused to talk about

numbers.
The minister said Israel

TEHRAN (AFP) — France has emerged as Iran's top oil partner after the French com-

pany Total won a \$600 mil-

lion contract to develop two

offshore fields in the Gulf.

Total signalled its commit-

ment to Iran after signing a

deal on Thursday to develop

the Sirri A and Sirri E fields.

replacing the U.S. firm Con-

oco, forced to pull out of an

identical deal following a

trade ban imposed by

The deal was the first Iran

has signed with the foreign

company in the sensitive oil

field since the 1979 revolu-

tion. The Islamic republic has

until now refused to share oil

production with foreign com-

"This project demonstrates France's will to develop rela-

tions with Iran and pave the

way for new projects to re-

construct and modernise the

Iranian oil industry." a Euro-

Washington.

panies.

diplomats said Friday.

"Probably the release will

We are considering the

the West Bank.

The Palestine Liberation

Iraqi or Jordanian.

Israel to hand over 50

'infiltrators' to PLO

After the Serbs overran the U.N. "safe area" of Srebrenica this week and deported thousands of Muslim refugees, there were mounting concerns that Zepa could be next. The remote mountain town of 16.000 is just 15 kilometres southwest of Sreb-

If Serbs take Zepa and the nearby city of Gorazde, they would control all of eastern Bosnia, from the border of Serbia to the besieged capital Sarajevo.

Aware of that Serb goal. government troops in Gorazde surrounded an Ukrainian peacekeepers' base, demanding back weapons they had stored

In Tuzla, the situation was near chaos Friday, as U.N. workers scrambled to provide tents, blankets, water and food for nearly 10,000 Muslim refugees coming from Srebrenica. Thousands more were on the road behind

One refugee hanged herself in the despair.
"It's a humanitarian disas-

ter now and it will be our worst humanitarian nightmare if those other enclaves go," said Ron Redmond, a spokesman for the U.N. High

Commissioner for Refugees. But those sleeping out in the open at Tuzla - all women, children and the elderly --- were more fortunate than the thousands of Muslim men and boys who failed to reach the

had asked the Palestinians for

specific details on some pris-

oners who are under the age

of 18, women and the sick.

ably meet in the coming few days with the details, with the

Israel also asked the

Palestinian National Author-

ity to take charge of Palesti-

nian criminals, not security

prisoners, held by the Jewish

Mr. Shahal added they

were "not to be released but

to serve their jail sentences in

the Palestinian Authority."

Yossi Sarid, who took part in

the talks at a Jeruslaem hotel

alongside Justice Minister David Libai, said that after

the release of the two groups

further negotiationse would

be held for more releases

Dr. Shaath left the meening

according to the situation.

without making any com-

Beirut assails Israel

Lebanon accused Israel Friday of wrongfully impris-oning and torturing hundreds of its citizens and said the

world community consistent-

ly turned a deaf ear to its

appeals for help.
"There is a kind of weak-

ness from international pub-

lic opinion on this subject.

We consider the world is not

doing enough on this till

now." Foreign Minister Faris

He told a news conference

Israel was holding more than

300 Lebanese prisoners in what he called illegal camps.

people. They are civilian peo-

ple ... it is a very clear kid-

napping of civilians." Mr. Bouez said.

France emerges as Iran's top oil partner

pean diplomat said in Tehran.

mats as a political and econo-

mic triumph for Iran, which

has lobbied to attract invest-

ment from other countries to

replace business lost with the

President Bill Clinton has

tried without success to per-

suade his Western allies to

join the trade embargo he

slapped on Iran on June 6,

alleging Tehran supported

terrorism and was seeking to

join the embargo, the gov-

ernment in Tehran voiced its

desire on several occasions to

boost trade with Paris be-

cause of its "independent

policy" and advanced tech-

Mahmoud Vaezi said France

could be a main beneficiary

of Iran's trade with other

countries in the coming year.

Deputy Foreign Minister

After France's refusal to

develop nuclear weapons.

United States.

The deal was seen by diplo-

"These are not military

The committee will prob-

on their fate.

We are talking about thousands of missing people." said spokesman Kris Janowski. He said as many as 20,000 people may be mis-

France gave its Western allies a 48-hour deadline to join in military action to pro-tect remaining Muslim enclaves in Bosnia from Serb attacks after the fall of Sreb-

Paris tried to put steel into the world's response to the capture of the U.N.'s Srebrenica "safe area" saying it would otherwise "draw the consequences.

French President Jacques Chirac, speaking at a Bastille Day news conference, condemned the response of West-ern allies to his call to arms to reverse the loss of Srebrenica and said it called into question the whole U.N. mission in Bosnia.

"I owe it to truth to say that up to now the contacts the French government has made have not been positive. I deplore that. For the moment we are alone," Mr. Chirac said.

He likened the world's attitude to the loss of Srebrenica to the appeasement of Nazi Germany before World War II and said France stood ready to help reinforce other castern enclaves and break the siege of he Bosnian capital Sarajevo,

"Of course, if we want to do strictly nothing, then I don't see why U.N. forces

Yeltsin's

hospital

extended

MOSCOW (AFP) — Doctors have told Russian President Boris Yeltsin to remain

in bospital another week, an

aide said Friday in a surprise

announcement raising new

fears over the seriousness of

president to continue his

treatment in hospital," said

presidential spokesman

Sergei Medvedev, cited by

llyushin, cited by ITAR-

TASS, said Mr. Yeltsin's

scheduled engagements from

July 16 to 23 have been can-

celled, including a trip to

Norway and a meeting with

An aide had carlier this

week reported Mr. Yeltsin

might leave hospital Monday.

July 17, after he was suddenly

taken ill Tuesday with an

ischaemia, a disease involv-

ing insufficient blood flow

into an organ and which can

Earlier Friday, a Kremlin

spokesman had said he was doing well and that his planned visit to Norway on

Wednesday and the northern

Russian city of Murmansk

was still on schedule. Fears over the 64-year-old

president's health were fuel-

led by the news that his en-gagements were being cancel-led, because up to then the

Kremlin had given the im-

pression it was business as

Mr. Yeltsin's office said hc

continued to run the country

from his bed, sending prop-

osed laws to parliament and fixing Dec. 17 as the date of

When Conoco pulled out.

the National Iranian Oil

Company (NIOC) entered

into negotiations with several

foreign firms, including Royal Dutch Shell and Total.

to win the contract, the com-

pany bowed out at the last

minute for economic and

Simi E is estimated to have

recoverable reserves of 436

million barrels and the other

field. Sirri A 50 million bar-

The two fields are located

near Sirri C and D, where the

NIOC is presently conducting

operations and has terminals

for storage and evacuation.

Iran, facing a severe finan-

cial crisis including a foreign debt of around \$35 billion.

hopes to earn some \$12.5

billion from oil and \$750 mil-

lion from gas extracted from

the fields, oil industry sources

commercial considerations.

Although Shell was tipped

usual (see inside).

bring on a heart attack.

political party leaders.

Interfax news agency.

Another aide,

"The doctors want the

his heart condition.

stay is

(Continued on page 7)

CBJ governor says criticism of Petra Bank liquidation unjustified doubtable debts collected in By P.V. Vivekanand In July 1990, the Economic

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

CROWN PRINCE MEETS EVANS: His Royal Highness

Prince Hassan holds talks with Australian Foreign Minister

Gareth Evans (centre) in Amman on Friday in a meeting

AMMAN — Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Nabulsi on Friday described as unfounded and unsubstantiated the allegations made in the Lower House of Parliament against the multi-million dinar liquidation of Petra

Dr. Nabulsi said the books of accounts of the government-appointed liquidation committee were open for inspection and that every action undertaken by the panel was very much within the mandate given to it by the government and in accordance to decisions taken by the board of governors of the Central Bank.

Petra Bank was once Jordan's second largest commercial bank after the Arab Bank. In July 1989, the Economic Security Committee of the government took over Petra Bank after gross irregularities surfaced and the bank defaulted on its obligations to

the Central Bank. Subsequently, Petra Bank Ahmad Chalabi fled the country, and a governmentappointed management committee ran the bank for some months before it found that the immensity of the problems made it impossible for the bank to continue despite more than JD 200 million pumped in by the Central Bank to protect the interests

PARIS IAFP) - President

Jacques Chirac. shrugging off worldwide Bastille Day pro-

tests over French nuclear tests, said Friday his decision

to resume the blasts in the

South Pacific was "irreversi-

As environmentalists mar-

ched and protested across the

globe, marring French

national day ceremonics

worldwide. France staged its

annual Bastille Day display

of military might along the

Champs Elysees with barely

an anti-nuclear incident

Addressing a nationally televised press conference on

his first Bastille Day appear-

ance as president of France.

Mr. Chirac said: "The deci-

sion to resume the tests is of

He said scientists were "unanimous" that under-

ground testing on the Murur-

oa atoll in French Polyncsia

would cause "strictly no

Responding to anti-nuclear protests, notably by Australia

and New Zealand, Mr. Chir-

ac said: "I can understand the

emotion, when there are no

ulterior motives, even though

French police laid on extra

security to prevent possible

disruption here, but there

was only a minor protest by a

50-strong group of Trots-

kyists who were in the crowd

watching the traditional para-

de along one of the world's

Big demonstrations and

boycotts were staged in the

Pacific in particular as French

embassies laid on traditional

Bastille Day receptions, but

I do not share it.'

largest avenues.

course irrevocable."

pollunoa.*

occurring in the capital.

Chirac: Decision to

resume tests is final

strongest.

of depositors.

Security Committee decided to liquidate the bank and mandated the Central Bank to supervise the process. The Central Bank appointed a seven-member liquidation committee and extended its mandate period one year la-Dr. Nabulsi, the CBJ gov-

ernor, in an interview with the Jordan Times on Friday. took up point by point the charges made by Deputy Fawaz Al Zoubi (Ramtha) against the liquidation com-Dr. Nabulsi said actions taken by the liquidation com-

mittee had the approval of the board of governors of the Central Bank and were very much in line with the broad objective of liquidating Petra Bank while collecting the maximum amount possible from debtors.

'The accusations made against the liquidation committee are false, and whoever made the charge did not appear to have bothered to take a close look at the accounts of the committee which are available for in-

On a charge that the committee sold shares held by Petra Bank in the Cairo Amman Bank for a price lower than the market price, Dr. Nabulsi said the sale was made through sealed bidding.

The 220.000 shares were sold at JD 15 each while the prevailing price for the stock at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) at the time was

protests were also to be held

in Europe, particularly in Germany and Italy where

anti-nuclear test feeling is

In Paris, Mr. Chirac, pres-

iding over his first Bastille

Day since he was elected in

May, watched as Foreign Le-

gion troops and marines who

have seen service in former

Yugoslavia murched down

the Champs-Elysees. A total

of 175 planes and helicopters.

including seven Mirage F1

fighter bombers, overflew the

free-lined thoroughfare in

About 50 Trotskyists who

were in the crowd watching

the parade waved banners

and shouted slogans against

nuclear tests. But the large

police force present moved in

immediately and arrested the

protesiors, from Alain Kri-

vinc's Revolutionary Com-

A pair of English tourists

politely waved a banner read-

ing "Stop Nuclear Tests" and

were taken to a police station

for allegedly causing an ob-

Paris police implemented ex-

tra traffic restrictions in the

capital for the parade, as well

as for a fireworks display

Friday night at the Eiffel

Tower, which normally

At his press conference,

Mr. Chirac, who announced

last month he would break a

thrce-year moratorium on

nuclear tests decided by for-

mer President François Mit-

terrand, denied that France

to would-be nuclear powers.

was setting "a bad example"

attracts huge crowds.

To try to stop protests,

munist League (LCR).

central Paris.

struction.



around JD 14.5. The sale was conducted in public, and the only reason the Central Bank did not approve an open auction sale was concern over the impact of such a deal on the overall price of the shares of the Catro Amman Bank,

One month after the sale was made in 1991, the market price of Cairo Amman Bank shares at the AMF ranged between JD 14.25 and JD 16. Dr. Nabulsi said a 25 per

committee offered to debtors for prompt payment of the dues was applied uniformly and rejected a charge that the move had favoured the weal-

The rebate was offered evenly to thousands of Petra Bank debtors and was not limited to a few, he said. The offer, which resulted in the collection of JD 36 million in

less than three months, still

attended by Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti (see

story on page one) (Petra photo)

"All the transactions and deals conducted by the liquidation committee are open for public inspection," e reiterated.

Specifically in response to charge that the offer had benefitted Cairo Amman Bank, the CBJ governor said experts had conducted a thorough study of the situation of the debtor. The offer led to the collection of JD 12 million from Cairo Amman Bank, he said.

Offering an incentive to the debtors helped the realisation of many bad debts which would otherwise had to be written off as bad debts or Jed to complicated legal wrangles, he said. "If anything, the incentives help debtors who are unable

mediately rather than who have enough funds to pay the debts," Dr. Nabulsi affirmed. Referring to another charge, the JD 11 million expense of the liquidation committee, the CBJ governor said the amount represented

to settle their dues im-

ve years of expenses rather than one year as charged. He said that 42 per cent of the expenses represented the salaries and wages of the liquidation committee, which has been working since July 1990. The committee em-

Another 26 per cent represented litigation charges, he

ploys 70 staff.

(Continued on page 3)

Egypt restates claim to Halaib to U.N.

CAIRO (Agencies) - Egypt has set out to the United Nations Security Council its claim to sovereignty over a border area disputed with neighbouring Sudan, Egyp-tian newspapers reported Fri-

day. Cairo described Khartoum's claim to the Red Sea border area of Halaib us "unfounded" in a message sent to the U.N., the newspapers

Egypt has rejected Sudan's insistence that the 17,000square-kilometres triangle was handed over when their border was amended in 1902

and 1907. Egypt's sovereignty over all the territories situated north of the 22nd Parallel is historically and legally proven even before Sudanese independence in 1956 and up to the present," Foreign Minister Amr Musa said.

Cairo insists the region. subject of an increasingly bitter war of words between the countries over the last few weeks, was awarded to Egypt under an 1899 treaty signed by Britain and Egypt when both countries controlled

Mr. Musa said he had acted after two letters sent by his Sudanese counterpart Ali Osman Taha to the Security Council which he said "contained multiple misrepresentations.

Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al Bashir, addressing a rally Thursday, said more than 100,000 troops were standing by to defend Halaib and the nation against "col-

onialist aggression. Relations between the two

countries have descriorated since Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak implicated Sudan in an attempt to kill him in Addis Ababa on June 26, a charge denied by Khar-

Sudan complained to the U.N. in early July after a series of border clashes in Halaib.

Egyptian newspapers also said Friday Egypt is to invest 200 million pounds (\$59 million) in the Halaib region. They quoted a government

minister as saying the investments would cover projects in agricultural, tourism, minng and fishing sectors and other urgent local needs.

Al Ahram newspaper quoted Mohammad Ibrahim Suliman, minister of state for new development communities, as saving part of the funds would go to building 1,000 new bouses in the three main towns of Halaib and air and sea ports. Gen. Bashir. addressing a

rally in the east of the country, said Egypt had cut off the water supplies to civilians in the Halaib area in a 'mean and futile move to subjugate the citizens of Halaib.

"A message for those who kneel before the Americans and the Zionists. Sudan will never be frightened by the provocations and the colonialist plans whatever by the pressure," he said.

Gen. Bashir urged all Sudanese to go to the training camps to "defend the nation and the faith."

He said Halaib was 100 per cent Sudanese and Sudan would never ralinquish an inch of th . ierritory.



FDA says nicotine is a drug

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) bas concluded for the first time that nicotine is a drug, opening the way for stricter regulations aimed at protecting minors. Although the FDA has broad authority to regulate drugs, it has left it to the White House to decide what to do about its finding that nicotine is addictive, The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal said. President Bill Clintoo demurred Thursday, saying it would be "somewhat premature" to say he is considering whether to regulate nictone as a drug. "My concern is... the impact of cigarette smoking, particularly; on our young people larly on our young people and the fact that cigarette smoking seems to be going up among our young people and certainly among certain groups of them." he said. FDA and White House officials met Wednesday and were scheduled to meet again later, said White House spokesman Michael McCurry. "I think we ought to do more about that (smoking among youth) than is being done and I'm willing to do that, but I want to see exactly what their recommendations are," Mr. Clinton told repor-

World's 'oldest footprint' found In Australia

PERTH, Australia (R) -

Australian and British scientists have found what they say are the world's oldest ever footprints in ancient rock in west Australia, upsetting classic evolutionary theory that plants were Earth's first colooisers. The footprints, colooisers. The tootprints, made by giant one-metre (three-ft) long scorpions and centipedes, were dated to at least 420 millioo years ago, well before the first higher plants took root, Australian palaeontologist Ken McNa-mara said Thursday. "It's changing the sequence of events," Mr. MeNamara, of the Western Australia Museum in Perth, told Reuters. "The classic view of evolution of life on land is not really held up in the fossil evidence," he added. The fossil record of these huge. scuttling arthropods is the earliest evidence of an animal walking on land, he said, adding they were found in a gully in a national park about 600 kilometres north of Perth. "We are looking at rocks of about 420 to 430 million years ago, but they could be older than that," Mr. McNamara said. "They were big scorpion-type animals and big centipede-type

Fujimori files for divorce

LIMA (AFP) — Capping a

presidential palace soap

opera that has gripped Peru-

vians for nearly a year, President Alberto Fujimori con-

firmed Thursday that he had

filed for divorce citing "grave insult" as grounds. "With great sadness, for his four children, he filed a request for divorce with the courts to have his marriage to his wife Susana Higuchi dissolved." the president's office said in a statement. Mr. Fujimori, 57, acknowledged that his divorce petition, in which he charges his wife committed "grave insult," had been filed on June 9. Ms. Higuchi legal-ly has 30 days from the filing date to respond to the request. Ms. Higuchi recently told the news magazine Caretas that "if anyone is uneasy, it is the president. I have thought about it. and I have made a decision, but I will only make it known when I have to do so officially," she said. The couple, both offspring of Japanese immigrants, saw their marriage hit the skids Aug. 3, 1994 when Higuchi publicly criticised a law passed by lawmakers loyal to the president that banned her from running for the presidency or seeking a Senate seat. She then moved out of the presidential palace. moved in with family friends and began charging members of her husband's cabinet with corruption. On August 23, 1994, the president stripped

his wife of her title and duties

as first lady. The couple has

four children, and Mr. Fu-

jimori has named their

daughter Keiko Sofia the re-

placement public "first lady."

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